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A C C O U N T
91
O F T H E
S H I P W R E C K A N D C A P T I V I T Y
O F
M R . D E B R I S S O N . *K*

W I T H A D E S C R I P T I O N O F T H E D E S E R T S O F A F R I C A ,
F R O M S E N E G A L T O M O R O C C O .

F r o m h i s o w n O b s e r v a t i o n , w h i l e h a r r a s s e d f r o m P l a c e t o P l a c e b y t h e w a n d e r -
i n g A r a b s .

T R A N S L A T E D F R O M T H E F R E N C H ,
B Y T H E T R A N S L A T O R O F G R O S I E R ' S D E S C R I P T I O N
O F C H I N A .

*Fœlix, qui patriis ævum tranſēgit in agris
Illum non vario traxit fortuna tumultu.*

L O N D O N :

P R I N T E D F O R R O B E R T B A R K E R , I N M A R C H , 1 7 9 0 .

[*Price One Shilling.*]

A C C O U N T

OF THE

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

BOILEAU has said, that *truth sometimes may not have the appearance of truth.* The justness of this observation is sufficiently apparent in the present narrative, which might be considered as a fiction, were not the authenticity of it, in some measure, confirmed by the respectability of those gentlemen, by whose assistance the author was enabled to return to his native country, and whose names he has mentioned with gratitude and respect. These were Mr. Durocher, the French Consul at Morocco, and Messrs. Duprat and Cabannes, merchants at Mogadore. Besides, Mr. de Briffon relates his story in so unaffected a manner, that there can hardly be a doubt entertained of his having given a faithful and exact account of what he saw and suffered, during a tedious captivity of thirteen months, among the wandering Arabs, in frightful and melancholy deserts, destitute, not only of every comfort, but even of the necessaries of life.—Those, who write for the purpose of imposing on the world, or to make themselves conspicuous by the singularity of their adventures, for the most part interperse them with so many improbabilities and contradictions, that the deception is readily detected; nothing of this kind, however, appears in the present work. The dangers and difficulties which the author encountered are indeed extraordinary, but they are such as might be expected in a country like Africa, and among a people equally brutal and ferocious as the Arabs. This traveller must have possessed no small share of resolution, and the strength of his constitution must have been equal to the firmness of his mind.

The author tells us, that his principal motives, for laying this work before the public, were a desire of being beneficial to such unfortunate people as might be exposed to the like fate, and a regard to the welfare of his country, and to the interests of humanity. These, undoubtedly, are laudable views; and the hints which he throws out, may be of the greatest utility to those who may be shipwrecked upon the coast of Africa, or who may fall into the hands of these barbarians. To the end of his narrative Mr. de Briffon has added a succinct account of the manners and customs
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of these wandering tribes, which, while it presents us with a melancholy picture of the depravity of human nature, in a state of rudeness, may serve to convince pretended philosophers, who are fond of bestowing encomiums on savage life, of the ridiculous absurdity of their opinions, and, at the same time, teach those, who live under the mild influence of liberty and civilization, in governments where the light of science has humanized the heart, to appreciate the blessings which they enjoy.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

I Pity every man who is under the necessity of speaking concerning himself; yet I here appear as the narrator of my own shipwreck and captivity. The reader will easily perceive, by the simplicity of my style and the plainness of my diction, that I am far from aspiring to the reputation of an author; nor do I seek for the vain consolation of calling forth, by a recital of my misfortunes, the sighs of the compassionate. A desire of preventing the like disasters was my principal view in publishing this narrative, and I hope that every unprejudiced and humane mind will do justice to my intentions. Happy shall I be if they are not frustrated, and if, by giving a just idea of the weakness of a prince too much dreaded, I can dissuade the powers of Europe from furnishing him with the means of oppressing their subjects and of injuring their commerce. I must, however, observe, that I have contented myself with relating plain facts and giving a faithful account of what I observed, leaving those, into whose hands this work may fall, to make reflections; which, if coming from me, might seem to be dictated by animosity or disappointment. It may, perhaps, be thought strange that this work should not appear till 1789; that is to say, until more than two years after the end of my captivity. Know, kind reader, that, as soon as my quarantine was finished at Cadiz,

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even before I had set foot on my native soil, or paid my respects to a tender and affectionate spouse whom I adore, I wrote to Marshal de Castries, the minister of the marine, that I waited for his orders to return to Senegal; and that, charged with fresh dispatches, I re-embarked at Havre de Grace, on the sixth of May, 1787. In this voyage I had the good fortune to arrive without any accident at the island of St. Louis, where I received a visit too interesting to be passed over.

Dr. Sparman, a celebrated physician and professor of natural history, already well known by his travels to the interior parts of Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope, waited upon me one day, at Senegal, with his countryman Mr. Wadstrom. These illustrious strangers, after making themselves known, informed me that they had come from Goree, for the purpose of conversing with me, and to beg me to give them instructions respecting that part of Africa which I had traversed, and to point out the best method of going from Senegal to Morocco, across the deserts, by Galam Bambou and Bondou. In answer to their inquiries, I told them, that they would never succeed in that enterprize, unless they could find some Arab who would undertake to conduct them; that I thought it very difficult; and that, even in case they should find such a person, it would be necessary for them to pretend that they requested his assistance because they had been shipwrecked; that they would be obliged to travel barefooted, to be exposed night and day to the inclemency of the weather, to serve their guide like slaves when they met with other Arabs, and to be contended at all times to feed upon whatever was left by this pretended master. I afterwards introduced them to an conference with the Sherif Sily Mouhammed, who resides at Senegal; but he candidly confessed, that, notwithstanding his quality which would shelter him from many disagreeable circumstances, he could not venture to expose himself to the dangers of the journey which they proposed. After this speech they were sensible that it would be impossible for them to undertake it with any hopes of success. They therefore gave up all thoughts of it.

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Having asked these illustrious travellers why they had not procured recommendations from government, they replied, that they could not accuse themselves of remissness on that head. They said they had obtained recommendations from government, and a protection of the same nature as those granted to Mr. Bougainville, Captain Cook, Count de la Peyrouse, &c. and that, before they quitted France, they had carried their precautions so far as to make certain arrangements with the Directors of the African Company; that Mr. de Boufflers, the Governor of Goree, whom they had long known, and to whose talents and virtues they paid a just tribute of applause, had shewn them every possible civility; that he had furnished them with many interesting instructions, and that he had offered to do them every service in his power; but that, after his departure, the company's agents had refused them the least assistance towards carrying their plan into execution. "You are a Frenchman, Mr. de Briffon," said these gentlemen, "permit us, however, to condemn the exclusive privileges which are so readily granted in your country. They must, soon or late, occasion the destruction of commerce, and, consequently, cause a considerable diminution in the resources of the nation. We were bearers of the minister's orders, and yet your *privileged gentlemen* have thought proper to pay no attention to them. We have found subjects erect themselves into *despots*. When they meet with an opportunity they will perhaps become tyrants."

On my return to France I found the place, which the Marshal de Castries had resigned, filled by the Count de la Luzerne. It was, therefore, into the hands of this minister that I delivered the dispatches which had been entrusted to my care. The kindness with which he received me, the compassion he shewed me on account of my misfortunes, and the hopes which he gave me that his Majesty's beneficence would be extended towards me as one of his faithful servants, encouraged me to revise and publish this narrative, which, I can assure the public, has been dictated only by truth, and a regard to the interests of my country and of humanity.

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AN
A C C O U N T
OF THE
SHIPWRECK and CAPTIVITY
OF
MR. DE BRISSON.

MY voyages to Africa had already exposed me to many dangers, difficulties, and losses, when, in the month of June, 1785, I received an order, from the Marshal de Castries, to embark for the island of St. Louis, at Senegal, in the St. Catharine, Captain Le Turc, who, during the last war, acquired so much reputation, when he commanded a privateer called the Flessinguois.

Having proceeded on our voyage, without any interruption, till we arrived at the Canaries, we passed between these isles and that of Palma, on the 10th of July following, about three in the afternoon. Before my departure from France, I took care to forewarn the captain of the danger to which he would be exposed in these seas by the violence of the currents, remarking to him that every time I had passed there I had run a great risk of being driven upon the coasts of Barbary. This caution, dictated by experience, might have excited the attention of Captain Le Turc, especially as I repeated it as soon as I observed the sea to assume a whiter color; but, when I asked him if he did not intend

to throw the lead, he replied, "What are you afraid of?—the land?—we are more than eighty leagues from it." The second captain made me almost the same answer; but, alas! they soon had an opportunity of being both convinced that my fears were too well founded.

About midnight I was awaked by the violent motion of the vessel, and, imagining that we had struck, I hastened immediately upon deck. The reader may judge of my surprise, when I perceived a kind of shoal surrounded by rocks, while all the crew were fast asleep. Alarmed at our danger, I ran quickly to rouse them, and, calling out to the captain to save himself, told him that the vessel touched the bottom. The captain instantly came upon deck, and, in the midst of his terror, which his officers shared with him, gave orders for steering towards the sand-bank. The vessel being thus directed, and besides hurried along by the force of the currents, struck thrice against the shoal, and then remained without the least motion.

A dreadful noise now ensued; the masts, loosened, quivered over our heads; the sails, violently agitated, were torn into a thousand rags; the terror became general, and the cries of the sailors, mixed with the dreadful roaring of the sea, which seemed as if irritated at seeing its course stopped between the rocks and the vessel, which it was about to swallow up, still added to the horror of the scene. In this dangerous state, the consternation of the crew was so great, that no one thought of saving himself. "Oh! my wife!" cried one; "Oh! my dear children!" exclaimed a second; while others lifted up their hands to heaven and implored the divine Protection. However, by means of axes, we cut away
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the masts, hoping that we should be able to save the ship; but our exertions were of no avail, the hold was already filled with water.

In this fatal extremity I went up to the captain, who, amidst his distress, was unable to pursue any plan for our relief. Eighteen months before, Captain Carfin had experienced the same accident near Cape Blanc, and in a fit of despair had occasioned the ruin of a great many unhappy people, by shooting himself through the head. Apprehending that Captain Le Turc might do the same, and leave us without a commander, I exhorted him to have patience, and did every thing in my power to reanimate his courage, but without success. We should, therefore, have been inevitably lost, had not Mr. Yan, one of the lieutenants, Mr. Suret, a passenger, three English sailors, and a few others, encouraged by my example, assisted me to hoist out the chaloupe, and to prevent it afterwards from being sunk, or dashed to pieces against the sides of the ship. We were obliged to struggle the whole night against the fury of the sea, that, when day appeared, we might be able to avoid the rocks which surrounded us on all sides, and to get, if possible, on-shore.

Having taken every necessary precaution, I called out to those who remained, to throw us some ropes into the boat; in order, that, if we should have the good fortune to reach the land in safety, they might pull it back towards the vessel. As the captain, second captain, and three-fourths of the crew, had not the courage to expose themselves in this first attempt, we could think of no other method of saving them.

Scarcely had we made two strokes with our oars, when they were swept from the hands of the rowers

by the violence of the waves; the chaloupe was overset; we were in an instant separated; and all, except Mr. Devoise, brother to the consul at Tripoli, cast upon a bank of sand. I, however, threw myself immediately into the water, and was fortunate enough to save him from destruction.

Our unfortunate companions, who had remained on-board, now saw themselves deprived of every assistance from us; but I soon revived their hopes, by plunging into the waves, accompanied by Mr. Yan, by whose zeal and activity my efforts were well seconded. He prevailed upon the rest to join us in endeavouring to get the chaloupe afloat again, which we accomplished with a good deal of difficulty, but we found ourselves amply repaid for our labor, when we set the rest of the crew on-shore. We, however, escaped this first danger to become the victims of a second, still more terrible.

Having asked the captain at what distance he supposed we might be from Senegal, I received an answer which was far from being satisfactory. Not knowing then what route to pursue, I informed my companions in distress, that I could not flatter myself with the hopes of conducting them to any village of the tribe of the Trargea, where I might have the good fortune to be known to some Arab, with whom I had been connected at the island of St. Louis, at Senegal. "In such a case," said I, "our captivity will be shorter and less rigorous; but I am afraid of meeting with some hordes of the tribe of the Labdesseba, a ferocious people, who live like real savages; who wander about from place to place in their deserts, and who live upon nothing but the milk of their camels."

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As soon as we had got on shore, I prevailed on my companions to clamber up the rocks, that we might discover, if possible, upon what land Providence had cast us. When we reached the summit, we perceived an immense plain covered with white sand, interspersed with a few plants, very like branches of coral. These plants bear a small seed, of the same color, and almost of the same size as that of mustard: the Arabs call it *avezoud*. They gather it, and make a kind of paste of it, which they use as food. This view was terminated by some little hills, which, being covered with a kind of wild fern, had a great resemblance to a vast forest.

In walking towards these hills, I found some camel's dung under my feet, and soon after I saw several of these animals, which were feeding here and there. We had then no longer cause to doubt that the country was inhabited, and this discovery allayed our apprehensions a little; for, without knowing among what people we were, we thought ourselves very fortunate to approach any village, as hunger, which began to attack us, would have soon reduced us to the greatest distress. I knew better than any of the rest what we had to fear, and, above all, from thirst and the want of water.

Whilst my mind was occupied with this dismal reflection, I perceived, at a distance, some children, who were endeavouring to collect a flock of goats, and to drive them before them. From this circumstance, I concluded that we were discovered, and that our presence had caused some terror. The cries of these children having spread the alarm to the neighbouring camp, the inhabitants immediately came to meet us; and, as soon as they had taken a full view of us, they separated, and began to dance
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and caper about upon the sand, covering, at the same time, their faces with their hands, and sending forth horrid cries and yells. This was sufficient to convince us that these people were little acquainted with the figure and appearance of Europeans. As their gestures, and the manœuvres which they made to surround us, foreboded no good, I desired my companions not to separate, and to march in order until I should be near them enough to be understood. In my preceding voyages to Senegal, I had learned to speak a few Arabic words, which I hoped would be of some service to me on the present occasion. I began, therefore, by putting a white handkerchief at the end of my cane, in the form of a flag, thinking that, perhaps, they might have some knowledge of that signal; especially if there were any of them who had ever been at Senegal, or that, if any of them had ever seen a French ship in these seas, they might know us to be unfortunate Frenchmen thrown upon their coasts by shipwreck.

When we came up to these savages some of my companions, and, among others, the first and second lieutenant, separated from us. They were immediately surrounded, and seized by the collar, and it was then, that, by the reflection of the sun's rays from the polished blades of their poignards, we discovered, for the first time, that they were armed: having not perceived this before, I advanced without any fear. Our two unhappy companions having disappeared, I was not able to make the rest stop, even for a little time: fear got so much possession of their hearts, that they all together gave vent to cries of despair, and fled different ways. The Arabs, armed with cutlasses and large clubs, fell upon them with incredible ferocity; and I had the mortification

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of soon seeing some of them wounded, whilst others, stripped and naked, lay stretched out and expiring on the sand.

In the midst of this dreadful massacre, I perceived an Arab unarmed. By this dress I took him to be one of those who had accompanied Prince Allicoury on a visit which he had formerly paid me at the ill of St. Louis, and I immediately ran to throw myself into his arms; but, after having examined me for some time, he cast upon me, Mr. Devoise, the second captain, and five of my companions, who had not quitted us, a look of contempt, which too plainly announced that we were equally unfortunate as the rest. He laid hold of my hand, looked at it with attention, counted my fingers, put his hand into the hollow of mine, making several motions with his head, and then asked, "Who art thou? What art thou doing here? How camest thou hither?" In order that I might satisfy him as well as I could, I traced out the figure of a ship on the sand; and, by the help of the few Arabic words which I knew, and of my gestures, I made him comprehend that I solicited his assistance to conduct us to the place of our destination. Having added, that I had about me wherewith to recompense him for his trouble, he seemed to understand this part of my communication much better than the former; for, he directly thrust his fingers through mine, to inform me that we were friends from that moment, and immediately desired me to put into his hands the effects of which I had spoken. I then gave him two beautiful watches, one of which was a repeater, with their chains; a gold stock-buckle; two pair of silver sleeve-buttons; a ring, set with diamonds; a silver goblet; and two hundred and twenty livres
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in specie. I remarked, that if the sight of the trinkets gave him pleasure, that of the money gave him much more. He concealed his treasure with the utmost care and attention, in a corner of his shirt, which was blue, promising never to forsake me. The precaution I had taken, to save these effects in hopes of procuring the good will of those into whose hands I might fall, proved to me an inexhaustible source of sorrow and uneasiness.

As soon as this Arab had secured his booty, he asked me in what part we had been shipwrecked. I told him; and immediately he called to some more of his countrymen to follow him. By the manner in which they accosted him, I perceived that my protector was a man of distinction; he was, indeed, their priest, to whom they give the name of *Talbe*.

When we arrived at the sea-shore, they began to send forth loud shouts of joy; but the jealousy which appeared in their countenances soon raised a spirit of discord amongst them. They desired that we would swim to the vessel and bring away whatever we could save. We all, however, refused, alleging that we could not swim: so that part of them were obliged to go themselves; but those, who remained on the shore, and above all, the women, seemed to be under great anxiety, lest they should not get an equal share with those who had thrown themselves into the water.

The news of our shipwreck being, by this time, spread abroad throughout the country, we saw the savages running with the greatest eagerness from all quarters; their numbers naturally increased the jealousy of the rest, so that they soon came to blows, and many of them lost their lives in the contest. The women, enraged that they could not pillage the ship,

ship, threw themselves upon us, and tore from us the few articles of dress which we had left; but mine principally attracted their attention, as it seemed to be more worthy of notice.

My master, who was far from being of a warlike disposition, perceiving that the number of the Arabs encreased every moment, called aside two of his friends, whom he cunningly admitted as partners with him in the property of twelve of the crew, who had given themselves up to him. This was the best means of forming a party, and of preserving that share of the booty which he reserved for himself. After he had made such arrangements with his associates as he thought necessary, both for dividing what had already been procured from the ship as well as for sharing the slaves whom he had secured, he retired from the crowd, that he might shelter us from every insult; and the place which he made choice of, for that purpose, was a wretched hut, covered with moss, and situated at the distance of more than a league from the sea, where we were lodged, or rather heaped one upon the other.

The first care of our patron was to pay us a visit, and to search us to see that we had concealed none of our property. My companions, unluckily for them, had reserved nothing, and on that account he was in a very ill humour, and treated them without any mercy. He took from them even their shirts and their handkerchiefs, giving them to understand, that if he did not do them that favour others would. He attempted also to pay me the same compliment; but, having observed to him, that I had already given him enough, I met with no farther molestation.

Not knowing as yet among what tribe we had fallen, I addressed myself to our master with a view of being informed; and, partly by words and partly by signs, I held the following conversation with him. "What is thy name, and that of thy tribe, and why didst thou fly from these crowds, who advanced towards the shores of the sea?" — "My name is Sidy Mahammet, of Zouze; my tribe is that of Labdesseba, and I fled from the Ouadelims, because we do not live on good terms with one another." "But," added he, "what is thy name? Art thou brother to these people?" pointing to my companions. I replied to his questions, but I was much affected to learn that we had fallen into the hands of the most ferocious people who inhabit the deserts of Africa. I then foresaw that we should be exposed to numberless miseries and difficulties till the moment of our deliverance. But, alas! how was that to be effected? I durst not flatter myself even with the most distant hopes of it.

The sequel clearly shewed that my fears were too well founded. My master, after burying in the sand the little treasure with which I had enriched him, returned to the sea-shore, to see what would arise to him from the plunder of the ship. During his absence, a company of the Ouadelims came to lay siege to our retreat; and, having pillaged and destroyed every thing, they seized upon us also, laying hold of some by the throat, and of others by the hair; while two of them advancing towards me, and taking me by the arms, dragged me first on one side, and then on another. The few trifles which I had left became the objects of their jealous fury; others running up surrounded me, dragged me aside, and, having torn my shirt and handkerchief from me,

me, pushed me down behind some hillocks of sand. There they beat me in the most outrageous manner, until I lost all hopes, and thought of nothing but expiring in their hands; the cords, which they brought to bind me, seemed to announce that my last hour was come. Whilst I was in this cruel perplexity, one of my master's two associates, running up quite out of breath, cried out, "Stop — You have committed in the hut of Sidy Mahammet, our *Talbe*, the most atrocious acts of injustice. Not contented with robbing him of this slave, in your fury you have trod under foot the sacred books of religion. The priest, incensed at the indecency of your sacrilegious conduct, requires that the elders of both parties be assembled to judge the guilty in a full council. Believe me, you had better restore his slave: this will be the only means to appease his anger." This threat produced the desired effect. I was delivered into the messenger's hands by those who had treated me with so much cruelty, after they had separated me from my companions. He, however, carried me away only to expose me to new torments.

Nouegem, for this was the name of the person who had delivered me, conducted me immediately to the place where the council was assembled, and, having presented me, said, "Behold the slave of Sidy Mahammet, whom I have followed the whole day, that I might never lose sight of him. After much fatigue, and many dangers, I have rescued him from the hands of those who had carried him away. As the price of my labour, I require that he may make part of the slaves who are to be assigned to me as my share; I have a greater right to him, since I have seen him put into the possession of his

master a large quantity of effects, which appeared to me to be of great value.”* A troop of women and children immediately assembled around me; they surveyed me with great attention, and cried out, all at once, “he is a king.”

Sidy Mahammer, enraged because Nouegem had disclosed the secret respecting his treasure as well as on account of the claim which he had dared to announce, cast a look of contempt upon him, and, with fury in his countenance, said, “Whether this Christian be a king or not, he is my property; of his own accord he threw himself into my arms, and I have promised to protect him, and to conduct him to Prince Allicoury. I have pledged my word to him, and I hope this tribunal will make some distinction in favour of my rights, between a man of my character and a Nouegem who deserves from me the severest chastisement.” From this discourse one may form some notion of the pride of the Arab priests,

“Since this is thy pretension,” replied immediately the Arab, “as he cannot become mine, he shall perish by my hand.” Scarcely had he finished these words, when he drew his poignard to stab me. I trembled under the threatening dagger of this barbarian; but my master, without losing a moment of time, threw a kind of chaplet,† of an incredible length, over me, and then took in his hand a small

* I did not understand the Arabic well enough to comprehend what these people said, upon this as well as upon other occasions; but, when I became acquainted with it, I made my master repeat their conversation.

† The *Talbes* carry about with them a long piece of cord, upon which are put 115 small black balls. They use them as the Catholics use their beads.

book, which hung at his girdle. At the same instant, the women rushed towards me, and snatched me from the hands of Nouegein, to put me into those of the enraged priest: so much did they dread lest he should thunder forth an anathema against his antagonist.

At the distance of a few paces from the place where this scene happened, I found my companions, whom I had given up for lost.

But, good God! in what state did I find them! They had already begun to feel the horrors of famine. They had eat nothing for two days. I was no less exhausted than they, but the crisis, to which I had been reduced, had agitated my spirits in such a manner that I had as it were lost the faculty of perceiving the wants by which I was pressed.

When I recovered a little tranquillity, and began to reflect upon the danger which I had escaped, my mind was so much affected, that I could not refrain from tears. I endeavoured to conceal from every eye this testimony of my sensibility and grief; but some of the women having observed it, instead of being moved with compassion, they threw sand in my eyes, to dry my eye-lids, according to their expression. Happily the obscurity of the night, by concealing me from their sight, saved me from the fury of these monsters.

We had been now three days in a state of slavery, and during all this time we had received no nourishment but a little flour, which, though spoilt by the sea water, was rendered much more disagreeable by a mixture of barley-meal, which had been long kept in a goat's skin; and, bad as this repast was, it was every now and then interrupted by alarming cries which we heard at some distance.

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One of Sidy Mahammet's friends came running up to him, to caution him to conceal himself as speedily as possible, because the Ouadelims were arriving from all parts, to take from him his capture. "Fly with your slaves," said he, "whilst I go to collect some of ours; at the break of day we will set out to return to our own habitation." I learned afterwards, that the Arabs of the tribe of Labdesseba had repaired to the borders of the sea only three days before we were shipwrecked, in order to collect the seeds of wild plants for the subsistence of their families. The place of rendezvous being agreed on, we concealed ourselves behind hillocks of sand, where we remained until some Arabs of another tribe, but equally interested in preserving their plunder, should join us, and reinforce our troop. A guide, who was sent before us, had erected at certain distances small pyramids of stones, to direct us what route to pursue, and to prevent us from falling into the midst of the enemy, and particularly of the Ouadelims; for, these people are so avaricious, that, whether friends or enemies, they are equally to be dreaded. At the break of day, all those who had Christian slaves having joined us, we began our march, in order to reach the interior parts of the country, where our masters resided.

It is impossible for me to express how much we suffered during our journey, and principally from thirst. We found so great difficulty in moving our tongues, that we had not the courage to ask the least question. We were, however, obliged to follow the camels, which they drove on very fast; and our masters, through a dread that we should be taken from them, caused us to make so many counter marches, that we were fifteen days in going to their habitations,

habitations, whereas, had we proceeded in a straight line, we should have reached them in five at most.

After passing mountains of a prodigious height which were covered with small greyish-coloured flints as sharp as those used for fire-arms, we descended into a sandy valley, over-run with sharp thistles. Having here slackened our pace, I found that the soles of my feet were entirely covered with blood, so that it was impossible for me to proceed any farther. My master then made me get up behind him upon his camel, but this attention on his part, instead of giving me any relief, had a quite contrary effect, and exposed me to the severest pain. A camel naturally steps very heavily, and its trot is remarkably hard. As I was naked, I could not secure myself from the friction of the animal's hair, so that in a very little time my skin was entirely rubbed off. My blood trickled down over the animal's sides; and this sight, instead of moving the pity of these barbarians, afforded them a subject of diversion. They sported with my sufferings, and, that their enjoyments might be still higher, they spurred on their camels. I should therefore have received incurable wounds, had I not formed the violent but necessary resolution of throwing myself off, and of walking on the sand. This I accomplished; and in falling I sustained no other hurt but that of having my body dreadfully pricked by the thistles, with which, as I have already said, the whole ground was covered.

Towards evening, having perceived a thick smoke, I imagined that we were approaching some hamlet, where we should find something to eat, and, above all, something to allay our intolerable thirst; but, in a short time, I observed nothing but a few bushes, in which our guide had taken up his lodging. Worn
out

out with fatigue, I retired behind one of them, to wait for the relieving hand of death; but scarcely had I stretched myself out on the ground, when an Arab, belonging to our company, came, and made me get up to unload his camel. I was so enraged at the imperious tone with which this fellow gave his orders, that I addressed myself to him without the least ceremony, upon which he tore from my head an old sea-cap, which had been given me in the place of my hat, spat upon it, by way of contempt, and seized me violently by the arm, to drag me towards the camels. As soon as he laid his hands upon me I could no longer restrain my passion; I gave him a blow in the face with my fist, and then, in disengaging myself from him, I laid hold of a stick, one end of which was armed with the head of a lance, and, running after him, endeavoured to strike him, but he betook himself to flight, and escaped from my vengeance.

At the same instant I perceived my master, who was advancing towards me. Being ignorant of his intention, I called out to him, that, if he attempted to revenge his companion, I would defend myself to the last, rather than be struck. He laughed at my resolution and threats, but at the same time assured me that I had nothing to fear. This adventure convinced me that, with firmness and resolution, I might avoid a great deal of ill treatment, to which I should have been exposed by appearing timid; and the event shewed that this idea was well-founded. I however saw preparations going forward which gave me great uneasiness. They made flints red hot in a large pan, raised up a huge stone which was at the foot of a bush, dug up the earth, and all the Arabs, frequently repeating my name, burst out into loud
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fits of laughter. They then called to me, and obliged me to approach the hole which they had dug in the ground, while the person whom I had beaten made different signs with his hand. He drew it often backwards and forwards against his throat, as if he intended to cut it, or to give me to understand that they resolved to serve me in the same manner. However resolute I was, and determined to defend myself, these gestures were by no means pleasing; but my apprehensions were soon converted into surprise, when I beheld them take from the pit, which I had approached, a goat skin full of water, a small leathern bag, containing barley-meal, and a goat newly killed. The sight of these provisions restored me to my former tranquillity, though I did not know for what purpose they intended the flints which were heating in the fire. At length I saw them fill with water a large wooden vessel, into which they had poured some barley-meal, and these red-hot flints, being thrown into the water, served to make it boil. In this manner our masters made a kind of paste, which they kneaded afterwards with their hands, and swallowed without chewing it. As for us slaves, we had nothing to eat but some of this paste, which was thrown to us upon a carpet, used by our patron to put under his feet whilst he repeated his prayers, and in the night-time as a mattress to sleep upon. After having kneaded this leaven a long time, he gave it to me, that I might divide it amongst my companions. One can scarcely imagine how disagreeable it was to the taste. The water with which it was mixed had been procured on the sea-shore, and had been preserved afterwards in the skin of a goat newly killed. To prevent it from corrupting, they had added to it a kind of pitch, which rendered the

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smell

smell of it doubly noxious. The same water was our only drink; and, bad as it was, our allowance of it was extremely scanty.

The Arab whom I had struck, hearing me complain, gave me the remainder of his paste, and told me that the next morning we should eat the goat, which had been killed for us, as he had given me to understand by his signs. I signified to him, partly by words, and partly by my gestures, how much surprized I was to have found this provision, and he employed the same language to inform me, that the guide who preceded us had procured them in a small village in the country, and that he had hid them under the earth to prevent the Moors from seeing them, in case they should happen to pass that way. This account, I must own, excited my astonishment; but nothing surprized me so much as to see the resentment of this Arab converted into complaisance, and acts of kindness. When our repast was finished, each of us retired, to enjoy the best rest he could behind a bush.

By the break of day, we heard the voices of our masters, who ordered us to collect the camels and to load them. Having obeyed these orders, we continued our journey with the little provision which we had left; and, about noon, halted in a plain, where we did not find a single tree to shelter us from the sun, the rays of which fell perpendicularly over our heads. They were employed in unloading the camels, and pulling up roots to make a fire, a labour which was exceedingly painful, as in that country all the trees, roots, and herbs, were covered with prickles. As soon as the fire had heated the sand, the Arabs buried the goat in it, and we always continued to keep up the fire, whilst our masters regaled them-

selves

selves with raw fat, which they appeared to be remarkably fond of. As soon as the meat was roasted, or rather baked, they took it from the earth, and these Arabs, without giving themselves time to free it from the sand which adhered to it, devoured it with incredible voracity. When they had thoroughly gnawed the bones, they made use of their nails to scrape off the remaining flesh, and then threw them to us, telling us to eat quickly, and to re-load the camels that our journey might not be retarded.

The sun was nearly about to set, when, by the light of his fiery rays, (for, in that country, the sun almost always sets in a reddish horizon,) we discovered some tents, scattered here and there upon a small eminence, and flocks returning from pasture. The inhabitants of the hamlet, to which we were approaching, came in a crowd to meet us; but, instead of exercising the mild laws of hospitality towards us, they loaded us with abuse, and treated us in the most inhuman manner; two of my companions were reduced to a most wretched and pitiful state. The women, above all, still more ferocious than the men, took pleasure in tormenting us while our masters durst scarcely oppose them. On the contrary, it seemed to give them great pleasure, that they bestowed more attention upon us, than upon the loads which they had brought with them on their camels.

Having retired a small distance from mine, I perceived a man who was taking aim at me with a double-barrelled fusée;* upon which I presented my

* Some years before, several vessels employed in the slave trade had been cast away upon this coast. As the Arabs plundered them, it is not astonishing that they should have fire-arms among them.

breast to him, and desired him to fire. This firmness, to which he was doubtless a stranger, astonished him greatly, and his surprise tended to confirm me in my opinion, that these people are impressed with awe when one appears not to fear them. I was going up to this man, when a stone from an unknown hand, though I suspected it came from that of his wife, struck me on the head, and deprived me of all sensation for a few moments. As soon as I recovered myself a little, I fell into a violent passion, and with a loud voice called out for vengeance. This was enough to spread terror and alarm among the children, while the savages who had come to meet us, not knowing what was the case, betook themselves to flight. One of them, however, before he set out, gave me a violent blow upon the breast with the but-end of his fusée, which made me vomit up blood. Had I been able to distinguish the villain who thus struck me, I had infallibly revenged myself; but, having nothing in my power except to complain, I did so in such a violent passion as excited the curiosity of several of these monsters. Having asked my master who I was, he told them that I was a Christian who must be exceedingly rich. "He has," continued he, "a great quantity of fuses, balls, flints, and scarlet cloth.* To be convinced how much superior he is in rank to the rest, we need only observe, that he was more richly clothed, that his linen was perfumed with an agreeable scent,† and that he received in his house Prince Allicoury, with his wife and all his attendants."

* He imagined that all the provisions and stores in the king's magazines at Senegal belonged to me.

† This perfume was nothing else than lavender, the smell of which my linen had preserved.

I thought I should avoid much ill treatment by saying this Prince had been to pay me a visit; and to convince these Arabs more fully of the truth of this assertion, I imitated his farces, which they call *Egeums*. This species of amusement pleased my master so much, that he made me repeat it as often as he found leisure. He made use of this stratagem to divert the attention of those by whom he expected to be robbed.

Scarcely had he mentioned my talent for imitating the *Egeums*, when I was surrounded by men, women, and children, who all continually cried out to me, *ganne*, "Sing, then."† As soon as I had ended, they made me begin again, and I was obliged to comply with their request, both to amuse them and to procure myself a small quantity of camel's milk, as the price of my low buffoonery.

We remained only one day in this canton, the inhabitants of which, however ill-disposed towards us they had been at first, did not fail to supply us with provisions for three or four days. The plains, which we traversed in advancing towards the east, were covered with small flints, white as snow, of a round figure, and broad like a lentil. As we walked along, we heard a hollow sound under our feet, as if the earth had been dug out under us. This part of the country presented no variety, and the land, absolutely flat, did not produce the smallest plant. The horizon here is loaded with a reddish-coloured vapour, and one imagines that one sees, every where around, volcanoes emitting flames. The small stones hurt the feet like sparks of fire, and neither birds

† This nation are remarkably fond of singing. They generally range themselves around the person who affords them that pleasure.

nor insects are seen in the air. A profound silence, which has in it something awful, reigns throughout the whole country. If at times a small breeze arises, the traveller immediately finds himself extremely languid; his lips become chapped, his skin appears dry, and his whole body is covered with small pimples, which occasion a smart and very painful itching. Our guides, who had taken this route to avoid some tribes from whom they had much to fear, were no more exempted than we from the hardships which we suffered in this passage, through a district into which the most ferocious animals never venture to penetrate. The rays of the sun were continually reflected from the flints, and I was every moment apprehensive that their brightness would deprive me of sight.

On leaving this immense plain, we entered another, in which the wind at certain distances had raised ridges of solid sand of a reddish colour. A few odoriferous plants, which raised themselves above the tops of these ridges, were instantly devoured by the camels, which were almost as much oppressed by famine as we. Beyond this sandy plain we had the good fortune to find a valley, surrounded by mountains, the soil of which was white, and of a marly nature; and here, at the bottom of a few broom bushes, the branches of which, united with much apparent art, formed an harbour, we found some water, of which we stood greatly in need.— Though it was extremely bitter, and covered with a greenish scum, and though it had a most noxious smell, we all drank of it with incredible pleasure.

In the evening, however, we were indemnified in some measure for our hardships, by meeting with a horde of Arabs, who were encamped at a place

a few leagues distant. They received us in a very friendly manner, and pointed out other hordes to us, where we should find every assistance necessary to enable us to reach the habitation of our patrons. This event was so much the more fortunate for us as our guides had mistaken their way.

My master's brother-in-law, who was also one of the chiefs of the horde, took particular care of all the slaves. He ordered camel's milk to be given us, and the flesh of the ostrich dried in the sun and cut into small pieces. I do not know how he happened to be prepossessed in my favour; but, having approached me, he addressed me in the following manner: "Unfortunate stranger, my brother has been indebted to me for a long time; if you will attach yourself to me, I shall make the necessary arrangements with him." As this proposal seemed to announce a tedious captivity, it made me tremble. I was so firmly persuaded that mine would not last long, that I hastened to inform my master of the proposal made by his brother-in-law, and I begged him not to agree to any accommodation, giving him to understand, that he would receive more for my ransom than his brother-in-law would give him.— "Be at ease," replied he, "thou shalt not quit me, but go to Senegal or to Morocco, and that very soon." This promise filled me with inexpressible joy; but, spite of those grateful sentiments with which the behaviour of Sidy Sellem had inspired me, his proposal did not fail to occasion some uneasiness. Having observed it, he told me that I should repent of not accepting his offer. I attributed his proposal to the desire which he had of getting me into his possession; but I was sensible afterwards that his intentions were sincere,

After

After three days rest among the Arabs of the tribe of Rouffye, we resumed our journey, to penetrate farther into the country, where we were to join the families of our conductors. At the end of sixteen days, during which we had been exposed to the greatest fatigue and to dreadful miseries, we at length reached the place of our destination, in a most wretched and worn-out condition.

As soon as the sun's rays began to appear, we discovered a hamlet, which seemed to announce a most delightful abode. Several tents, erected amidst shady trees, and flocks without number feeding on the hills, might have induced one to take this spot for the asylum of happiness and peace; but, when seen near, the scene was entirely reversed; the trees, the green foliage of which I had at first admired, were old gum-trees, the branches of which being covered with sharp prickles, rendered it impossible for us to take the benefit of their cooling shade.

Being observed soon after upon the brow of a hill, which conducted to the habitation of our masters, several of those black slaves, whose business generally is to keep the camels, came to meet them, in order to kiss their feet, and to enquire after their health. A little farther on, the children made the air resound with shouts of joy, and the women standing up, through respect, waited at the doors of their tents for the arrival of their husbands. As soon as they approached, they advanced towards them with an air of submission, and each, laying her right hand upon the head of her husband, kissed it, after having prostrated herself before him. When this ceremony was finished, they began to satisfy their curiosity with regard to us, and soon after to load us with abuse; but they did not stop here, they even spat in our faces.

faces, and pelted us with stones. The children too, copying their example, pinched us, pulled our hair, and scratched us with their nails, whilst their cruel mothers ordered them to attack sometimes one and sometimes another, and took pleasure in causing them to torment us. Exhausted with fatigue, hunger, and thirst, we had impatiently wished for the moment of our arrival, but little did we foresee the new torments that were reserved for us.

Our masters, however, made a division of their slaves. As soon as mine had received the caresses of his family, I asked him which of the women that surrounded him was his favourite. Having pointed her out, I went up to her, in order to make her a present of two handfuls of cloves, which her husband had kept carefully for me, that I might procure a more favourable reception by this mark of my homage. I knew that all the Mooreesses were passionately fond of perfumes, and of that of cloves above all others. She, however, received my present with the most insulting disdain, and drove me from the tent with contempt. A moment after, this woman, the most worthless that I ever knew, and hated by all her neighbours, on account of the blackness of her character, came and ordered Mr. Devoise, Mr. Baudré, and myself, who had fallen to the share of her husband, to unload the camels, to clean a kind of kettle which she had, and to go and pull up some roots to make a fire. While she was employed in signifying her will to us, her husband was quietly enjoying a sound sleep on the knees of one of his concubines.

The hope of soon obtaining my liberty, inspired me with sufficient courage to support the severities to which this diabolical woman exposed me. I set

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out,

out, therefore, to collect some wood ; but, what was my surprise when, on my return, I beheld two of my companions dreadfully beaten, extended upon the sand ! They had been treated in this manner because, their strength being entirely exhausted, they had not been able to perform the task assigned them. I awakened my master by my repeated cries, and, though I as yet spoke the language very imperfectly, I endeavoured to address him in the following terms : “ Have you then conducted us hither to be butchered by a cruel woman ? Think of the promise you made me. Conduct me without delay either to Senegal or to Morocco ; if you do not, I declare, that, were I to perish, I will, if I am not able myself, cause all the effects I gave you to be taken from you, and I shall easily find a master who will treat me with more humanity than you.”

My passion scarcely knew any bounds ; and several neighbours, who saw us, having approached towards me, my master appeared to be under great uneasiness, as he was afraid that I would mention the quantity of the effects which he had received from me. Advancing therefore towards me, he laid hold of me by the arm, and pushed me rudely into his tent, bidding me be silent, and not make any noise. As he presented me with a basin of milk, I said to him, “ carry it to my companions, who are expiring with hunger.” He replied, that he was going to give them some, and again desired me to be quiet. I then shewed him my arms, flayed and all covered with blood. “ Recollect,” said I, in my jargon, “ that, at the moment of my shipwreck, you exclaimed, looking at my hands, *these are not accustomed to hard labour*, and yet you require me

to perform the most severe. Your countrymen experience in France a treatment far different.

He was astonished to learn that there were Moors in France. "We will speak of that hereafter," replied he, "but in the mean time be not uneasy, I shall take care of thee as if thou wert my own son." "I forbid you," added he, addressing himself to his wife, "to require from him the least service that may be painful to him, and I desire that, when thou doest, he may not obey thee." From that moment this favourite conceived an implacable hatred against me.

The end of August was now approaching, and I did not see the smallest preparations made for our journey. I had already asked Sidy Mahammet what he was waiting for, in order to conduct me to Senegal. His answer was, that he was looking for strong vigorous camels, which might be capable of supporting the fatigues of such a journey, and that he would set out as soon as he had procured them. I was the more earnest in intreating him not to delay, as the nights now began to be very incommodious, the dew often wetting us behind these bushes, which served us as a kind of shelter. In this dew, however, we found a resource, since, by collecting it with our hands from our bodies, it served to quench our thirst, the burning heat of which the coolness of the night did not allay, and we preferred this liquor to our own urine, which we were often obliged to use. Having spoken to my master a second time, he made me such a reply as convinced me that he was sincere. "Dost thou think," said he, "that, during the present excessive heat, it would be possible to travel without provisions, and, above all, without water? We should find great difficulty to approach

Senegal, as the river has inundated all the neighbouring plains, and we should have much to fear from the Arabs of the tribe of Trargea, who are our enemies." "I tell the truth," added he; "we must wait till the month of October. At that period the rains will have watered our deserts, and we shall then be able to procure pasture for our camels. Otherwise it would be impossible for us to make them subsist during so long a journey." I was sensible of the justness of this reasoning, and I resigned myself with patience to my fate.

The flocks, half starved, now no longer found any subsistence, and the sheep and the goats in the evening returned with their dugs empty, yet it was their milk and that of their camels which was to supply a numerous family with food. The reader may judge, after this, how much our share was diminished. As we were Christians, the dogs even fared better than we, and it was in the basons destined for their use that we received our allowance.

One day, the keeper of the camels cried out, that he was ashamed to serve a master who had not sufficient spirit to subject his slaves to that labour. The Moore's did not fail to support this observation, so that her husband, to whom I had long been a dupe, persuaded me, that, to stop the murmurs of the rest, it would be necessary that Baudré, as being the youngest, should take upon himself that office. Soon after I was obliged also to keep the sheep and the goats. Mr. Devoise, on account of his age and bad state of health, was exempted from this slavish duty, but his situation was on that account much worse than ours, since he was continually exposed to the cruel treatment of these Arabs, from
whose

whose company I was happy to be removed by my new employment.

One evening, as I was returning with my flock, one of the ewes having brought forth a lamb on the declivity of a little hill, I took it up in my arms, and with equal care and eagerness hastened to carry it to my master's favourite. As soon as I perceived her, I presented it, hoping that she would receive it with the same pleasure as she had always testified on the like occasions. I asked her at the same time if she would give me the first milk of the mother, as, according to the custom of the Arabs, it is the perquisite of those who have the care of the flocks; but I was disappointed in my expectations; for, without deigning to return an answer, she threw a large knife at my legs, and drove me from the tent with contempt and the most abusive language. Her husband, who was a witness to this brutality, came towards me, and told me that he would indemnify me for it, by giving me a larger portion of milk. I had always believed that this man's promises were sincere; but, what was my astonishment, when, in passing behind his tent, I heard him laughing with his wife at the blow which she aimed at me. I was filled with indignation at this treachery, but my passion was raised to the highest pitch when I went in the evening, to fetch the milk which had been promised me, to see the Moorefs come in a furious manner, and snatch it from my hands, and give the half of it to her dog.

The end of the year was now approaching, and a single drop of rain had not yet fallen. My situation became every day more dismal. I had no other clothing but a piece of old canvas wrapped round my middle. The plains and the valleys were entirely

irely burnt up, nothing remained for the nourishment of the flocks, and the month of December was come, a period when the rains generally cease till the next October. For three years a single drop of rain had not been granted by heaven to the inhabitants of the deserts. The desolation was universal, when an Arab from a distant part of the country came to inform us, that abundant showers had refreshed the earth in several cantons. Upon the news, joy succeeded to fear and grief. Every one struck his tent, and all set out to seek for those regions which had been lately watered. This was the thirtieth time that we had changed our habitation, and that our fatigues had been renewed; for, these hordes never remain longer than twelve or fifteen days in the same encampment. It was always my employment to erect the tents, and to load the camels; I was even obliged to carry large burdens to relieve them; too happy when the flock followed in good order, and when I had not the trouble of collecting them.

My companions, in the mean time, were so much exhausted, that they were incapable of the least labour. It was therefore necessary that the whole should fall upon me, and that I should share with them what little portion of food I could procure by endeavouring to render myself useful; for, they were left in want of every thing.

We at length arrived at the wished-for spot, from which I hoped soon to set out to recover my liberty; but my master, who had hitherto had the art to conceal the blackest treachery under the most specious and persuasive language, laid aside the mask of dissimulation, and treated me with the greatest cruelty.

We had encamped upon a sandy plain, which was so wet that the least pressure of our bodies made the water spout up in abundance around us. On this account, we should have thought ourselves extremely happy to have procured a mat made of osier twigs to sleep upon, or a coarse napped woollen carpet to cover us; but among the Arabs none except those who are very rich make use of such pieces of furniture. During night this carpet serves the whole family. "Sidy Mahammer," said I to my master, "do you think that I can hold out any longer in this situation? Permit me to take shelter under your tent. I suffer dreadfully from the cold during the night. The ground upon which I sleep is too damp. I have made your fortune, in gratitude you promised to treat me as your own son, and yet you neglect me." "It is true," replied he, "that I promised you my friendship, and I am now going to give you a convincing proof of it. Your situation, you say, is uncomfortable, but it will be much more so than you imagine. Do you know what fate is reserved for you? Flames and fire await you, to torment you throughout all eternity. Are you well acquainted with your religion?" I immediately began to explain to him its excellence; but, after hearing me some time with attention, he retired, saying, that he would prefer a basin of good butter-milk to all the absurdities I could utter. Alas! there was no torment which this fanatical priest did not make me suffer, in order to compel me to embrace his religion.

Mr. Devoise and Mr. Baudié, who heard this conversation, which I have greatly abridged, seemed to be very well satisfied with it. They flattered themselves with some alleviation of their misfortunes.

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The hour for milking the camels being arrived, I was called to receive my portion and that of my companions, and, observing that the quantity of milk appeared to be larger than usual, I imagined that my remonstrances had been attended with some effect; but, when we tasted it, we found that this increase was occasioned only by rain water, the quantity of which was so much augmented every day that we soon had nothing else but whitened water: this reduced us to an incredible degree of weakness, and laid us under the necessity of seeking our food with the cattle. The herbs and plants which they trod under foot, and raw snails, were then the principal part of our aliment till the moment of our deliverance. We were, however, obliged to prepare for new labours. I was commissioned to yoke some camels to a plow, to till the earth, and to sow it with corn; and my master, not satisfied with employing me in his own service, hired me out to other Arabs for a certain portion of milk. Worn out by fatigue and hunger, I should have certainly sunk under this load of oppression, had I not, from time to time, stole a few handfuls of barley, and, to this theft, I am fully persuaded, I owed my preservation.

"You see," said I to my master, "with what submission I labour at whatever I am ordered. I collect fuel, I churn butter, I keep your flocks, I pull up roots, I prepare camel's hair for your wife to spin, I till the earth, and, in short, do every thing that you require. I serve you after having enriched you, and yet you do not deign to give me a few rags to cover me."

Some other Arabs, more compassionate than he and who envied him the possession of my tinkers on which they set a great value, having reproached

him

him in the same manner, he sent for me one day and asked me, in their presence, whether at Mogadore, which they call *Soira*, a large ransom would be given for each of us. I told him that he would have no occasion to be dissatisfied. "In that case," replied he, "as a Jew merchant will pass this way to-morrow, ask him for some paper, and I shall permit you to write to those from whom you expect assistance." The Jew merchant,* indeed, passed the next day, and I wrote a letter, which I addressed to the French Consul, at *Soira*, or, in case there should not be one, to whomever represented him. I begged him to think upon our sufferings, and to give us speedy relief; and I pointed out the surest and best means of sending to us, and the only method he could employ to procure our deliverance. When I had put this letter into the hands of the Israelite, I thought myself already at liberty; but, alas! my hopes were too flattering.

A young female Moor, whose flocks often fed with mine, freed me from my error, and undeceived me with regard to the character of *Sidy Mahamed*. "Had he dared," said she, "he would have treated you no better than he has treated your companions, and perhaps he would have carried you to

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* The Jews, born in the desert, live almost in the same manner as the Arabs; but those who live in cities are more rigid observers of the law of Moses.

† If ever the French government, or any other, should hear of vessels lost upon these coasts, their agents, either at *Tangiers* or *Mogadore*, must make application to a Jew named *Aaron*, who resides at *Gouadnum*, and who sends emissaries into different parts of Africa to reclaim wrecks. Humanity induces me to give this advice, which it will be prudent to follow.

some private spot and deprived you of life, so little does it cost him to commit crimes; but he fears you as much as he fears his two brothers, who entertain the greatest esteem for you. If he has promised to set you at liberty, it is only to amuse you. He will never venture to go any distance, lest Moulem Adaram should order him to be arrested, and take from him all you have given him, and perhaps even his life.

This Moulem Adaram,* was the emperor's son. Having heard some vague reports concerning the effects which I had brought along with me, he persuaded himself that I was a Christian, possessed of great riches, and, on that account, he travelled more than a hundred leagues in order to purchase me. I was, however, fortunate enough not to fall into the hands of this cruel prince, who had rebelled against his father.

The information, given me by this young female Moor, made me lose all hopes of ever seeing my native country. My mind was agitated with the most dismal ideas; I became dejected and melancholy, and, from that moment, I was continually experiencing new causes of uneasiness.

I now no longer met in the fields my companions in misfortune; but I, above all, regretted the loss of the Captain. His company had often consoled

* Mr. Soret, one of my clerks, Mr. Pinjon, surgeon of the Two Friends, and two sailors, belonging to the said vessel, suffered greatly by the cruel and inhuman treatment of this barbarous prince. Sometimes they were severely beaten with a large stick, and, at others, cut and mangled with a dagger. Fiery sticks and red hot irons were more than once employed to torment them. Mr. Soret now lives at Nantes, and the scars on his body will attest the truth of what I have here asserted.

me in my distresses, and I found a kind of alleviation in discoursing with him on our sufferings, and the hopes which we had of being restored to our country. One evening, when the coolness of the weather had invited my camels to stray farther than usual, I was obliged to follow them to a neighbouring hamlet, where I beheld a spectacle horrible indeed! The unfortunate Captain, scarcely distinguishable, but by the colour of his body, lay stretched out lifeless upon the sand. In his mouth he held one of his hands, which his great weakness had, no doubt, prevented him from devouring. He was so changed by hunger that his body exhibited the most disgusting appearance. All his features were absolutely effaced.

A few days after, the Second Captain, having fallen down, through weakness, below an old gum-tree, became a prey to the attacks of a monstrous serpent. Some famished crows, by their cries, frightened away the venomous animal, and, alighting on the body of the dying man, were tearing him to pieces, while four savage monsters, still crueller than the furious reptile, beheld this scene, without offering him the least assistance. I attempted to run towards him, and to save his life, if possible, but the barbarians stopped me, and, after insulting me, said, "This Christian will soon become a prey to the flames." Finding my efforts vain, I hastened from this scene of horror; and, not knowing whether I should direct my steps, I followed my sheep and my camels. In such a situation, I should have been incapable of conducting them towards the tents. It is impossible for me to convey any idea of the sensations with which I was then agitated. I shed a flood of tears, and the most dismal presages

still added to my sorrow. When I arrived at the tents, I scarcely knew what I was doing. I continually imagined that I beheld voracious birds carrying up into the air pieces of flesh of my unfortunate companion. My master, struck with my absent and distracted looks, having asked me what was the matter with me, and why I changed the fastenings of the camels; Go," replied I, "go a few steps hence, and behold what your cruelty and that of your wife are capable of producing. You have suffered my companion to expire; and, because his bad state of health would not permit him to labor, you refused him the milk necessary for his subsistence. In such a situation, you ought rather to have given him every kind of relief."

Whilst I was speaking these words, I concealed my tears, as they would have excited only the laughter of these brutal monsters, who ordered me to go and bring some of the bloody clothes of the unhappy victim of their barbarity. I was fired with indignation at so indecent a proposal. My agitation, and the fern which I ate to allay my hunger, brought on me a painful vomiting, followed by an almost total loss of strength. I was, however, able to retire behind a bush, where I found another wretched object, who desired to know the reason of my tears, and if I had seen Baudré. "He is not far off," replied I. This was all I could or wished to say; but, my master's sister, who came to bring us some milk, cried out, "The crows now devour the entrails of Baudré, your fate will soon be the same; you are good for nothing else." Notwithstanding my extreme weakness, I had a great desire to have returned a suitable answer to this tigress; but, a regard for the condition of my companion made me
resolve

resolve to be silent. Had I been the first who had told him this piece of news, I might have softened the recital of what had passed; but, it was too late, and nothing remained for me, but to mingle my tears with his.

My health, which hitherto had been better than I could have expected, now declined apace. My whole skin had been twice renewed, and a third time my body began to be covered, if I may use the expression, with scales like those of the Arabs: a change which was attended with great pain. The thorns, over which I walked, had torn my feet to the quick; I could scarcely stand upright; and the large dogs, which were continually let loose upon me, and from which I could never disengage myself without receiving dreadful wounds, rendered me altogether incapable of guarding the camels. To add to my misfortunes, the excessive heats about the end of February and March had dried up all the water in that part of the country; and a single drop of rain had not fallen to moisten the fields which I had sown. Our cattle, no longer finding pasture, were on the eve of perishing; when at length the two tribes of the Labdesseba, and the Ouadelims, after having each deliberated on their present situation, resolved to go in search of some spot occupied by more industrious hands.

The Ouadelims carried their ravages as far as Gouadnum, three hundred leagues distant from the place where we were encamped. Some hordes of the Labdesseba, less inclined to wandering than the former, remain'd behind; and, as their number was inconsiderable, they found, in the nearest cantons, pastures sufficient for their flocks. They slaughtered some of their sheep, and in this manner subsisted till the

the end of the following month, at which time we began to quit the deserts, where the inhabitants were threatened with the most dreadful misery.

I was in this dismal situation I have described, when I accidentally met with an Arab, who had in his train a Christian slave, whom I found had been baker to our ship. This Arab offered to dispose of him to my master at a moderate price; and the latter, who was under very little uneasiness about the manner of our subsisting, readily gave a camel in exchange for this new slave, to whom he assigned my ordinary labor. I had now leisure to recruit my strength a little; but, the unhappy baker paid dearly for the knowledge which he had in the art of preparing food.

After eating all the snails which we could find in the neighbourhood, we fed upon the flesh of the sheep that had died either of hunger or disease; and this suggested to us the idea of strangling a few kids in the night-time, persuaded that our masters would throw them away, as their law does not permit them to eat the flesh of any animal, unless it has died by the knife.

This stratagem occasioned frequent deaths; and it was observed that those kids, which appeared best in the evening, were, for the most part, those which were found dead in the morning. Our wants gave rise to suspicions, and we were at length caught in the fact. We, however, escaped punishment, after receiving much abuse, and being threatened with having our throats cut, if we ever again attempted the same thing: but, notwithstanding this prohibition, we were obliged to think of new means for procuring a subsistence. Thanks to my sound constitution, I soon recovered my strength, and was in a condition

condition to collect faggots, the sale of which was
 attain; for, in this country, fire is indispensibly
 necessary during the night; and the women are too
 lazy to go and cut wood. My small trade, there-
 fore, procured me enough of milk for my own sup-
 port, and a little for poor Devoise, who was exceed-
 ingly ill.

As I was preparing one morning to set out to
 cut wood, this friend, addressing me in a faint and
 languishing voice, said, "The illusion is now at
 an end: hitherto I flattered myself with the hopes
 of again seeing my native country; but I perceive
 my strength forsake me. This night,—yes, my
 dear friend, for, this title justly belongs to you,—
 after all your care, you will find my body here ar-
 rested by the cold hand of death. Fly, my dear
 Briffon,—fly from this abominable abode. Try
 every means you can devise to escape; you were
 formed to inhabit some more fortunate country. If
 heaven will, deign to hear the vows of a man about
 to resign his soul into the hands of its Maker, you
 will be restored to your wife and disconsolate family.
 Adieu, my friend, the tears, which you strive to
 hide from me, are a new proof of your attachment.
 Write to my brother; tell him I remembered him
 in my last moments, and that I die with the senti-
 ments of a true Christian. Adieu, my last moment
 is nearer than I expected,—I expire." He spoke
 no more; that moment, indeed, was his last.

Some children, who had been witnesses to my
 grief, and who knew the cause of it, having imme-
 diately spread the news of this event throughout the
 whole hamlet, my master's sister ran up to me, then
 suddenly disappeared, setting up a hoarse laugh, and
 crying out it would be so much milk spared. Some
 neighbours,

neighbours, whose hearts I thought had been melted by my sighs and tears, came and dragged me from the lifeless body. They offered me milk; but, at the same time, turned my sorrow into ridicule. "Why," said I to them, "should you condemn the tears which I shed to the memory of my friend? In such cases I have seen you roll yourselves on the sand and the stones. I have seen your eyes bathed in tears. Do you believe, then, that our souls do not feel grief in the same manner as yours? Be undeceived; in misfortune we are all brothers." I could say no more. It was even impossible for me to remain longer in the presence of beings who had nothing human but the figure, and whom I dreaded more, and held in greater detestation, than the most ferocious animals.

Though I had known Mr. Devoise only since our departure from France, I was sensibly affected at losing him. The mildness of his manners, the equality of his temper, habitude, and, perhaps, our situation as much as any thing, all contributed to unite us closely together. I sincerely regretted him; I went into the fields to seek for the only companion whom I had now remaining, and we retired together with the flocks, the keeping of which became every day more and more laborious, on account of the scarcity of pastures.

On our return we were ordered to carry away the body of our friend, and to dig a very deep pit, in order, as the Arabs said, to conceal that Christian from the sight of their children. We performed our last duty to him with much difficulty; for, being too weak to carry him, we were obliged to drag him by the feet for three quarters of a league, and the earth, at the brink of the pit which I had dug,

giving

giving way under me, I tumbled in first, and was very near expiring under the weight of the body.

A few days after, we quitted this place to search for another more fertile, and encamped in the neighbourhood of several other tribes, where I found one of our sailors, named Denoux, who was a slave like myself. Having asked him what was become of his companions, "Six of them," said he, "were carried away by the emperor's son soon after our shipwreck, and have since gone to France. Mr. Taffaro, the surgeon-major, died of the blows he received on the head with a large stick; Mr. Raboin, second-lieutenant, expired also in dreadful torture. Others, to avoid the horrors of famine, have renounced their religion. As for me, sir, I shall not be long in following those whom death has now freed from their miseries. Behold in what condition I am; there is no kind of bad treatment to which I am not daily exposed." "Alas! poor youth!" replied I, "give not yourself up to despair. If it be true that six of your shipmates have returned to France, our situation will not be long unknown to the minister; his orders will speedily follow the first emotions of his heart; he will cause search to be made for us, and I have no doubt of our soon seeing an end put to our misfortunes." Indeed, I afterwards learned, that the Marshal de Castries, on first hearing the news of our shipwreck, sent the most positive orders to reclaim us. But Mr. Mure, the vice-consul, to whom these orders were addressed, instead of conforming himself to the views of the minister, thought of nothing but paying his court to the Emperor of Morocco, and to his officers, by lavishing presents upon them, at the expence of the court of France.

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This agent might have procured us our liberty, by dispatching to Gouadnum any Arab or a Jew merchant, who, for a hundred piaſtres, (20*l.* ſterling,) would have traversed all the deſert; and who, conſequently, would have been contented with a much leſs ſum, had he made reſearches only in the neighbourhood of Morocco. Had he iſſued an order for bringing all the Chriſtian ſlaves to Mogadore, the Arabs would have conducted them thither from all parts, in order to receive the ranſom, which they would have gladly employed in purchaſing wheat and barley, as they would have found abundance of it at Sainte-Croix, in Barbary. But the conſul, by his negligence, prolonged our miſfortunes; for, the Arabs, our maſters, were very cautious not to undertake a long, painful, and dangerous, journey, without ſome hopes of being rewarded. Mr. Mure was contented, therefore, with writing back to the miniſter, that he was uſing every exertion to find us out. His conduct upon this occaſion is ſo culpable, that, far from conſidering myſelf as a baſe informer, I am proud of having repreſented him to his employers in a proper light. This is a duty I owed to my countrymen, and to humanity.

What eulogium, on the contrary, is not due to Meſſrs. Deprat and Cabannes, merchants at Mogadore. It is to their patriotiſm that France is indebted for the greater part of thoſe, who, with me, were unhappily ſhip-wrecked. The extenſive trade, which they carry on in the interior parts of the country, gives them great influence, both in the capital and in other towns. Had their advice been followed, what faults and miſfortunes might have been avoided! It is to be hoped, that the conſul-general

general will, in future, take this care upon himself, and embrace the earliest opportunity of reclaiming such unfortunate people as may be lost upon these coasts.

But, to return to my narration. I had always in mind the discourse of the sailor, and I could not conceive how we were so abandoned, when there were means of reclaiming us. I was reflecting upon the causes of this total neglect, when, on retiring behind my bush, I was much astonished to see my master's camels returning without a guide. Being called to receive my portion of milk, when it was pretty late, and not seeing this poor man, I took the liberty of asking what was become of him; but the Arabs gave me a very cool answer, and drove me from their presence. The forbidding aspect of my master and his wife made me apprehensive for the poor baker, and I longed to see him, in order that I might learn his fate. Next morning early, a young Arab, employed in keeping the flocks, came and informed me, that Sidy Mahammet, suspecting that the baker privately milked his camels, watched him; and, having caught him in the fact, had seized him by the throat, and strangled him. "Take care of thyself," said the young man, "a Christian, who touches the teats of our cattle, profanes them. The proprietor, or any other Arab, has a right to punish with death whoever offends in this respect. I give thee timely warning; beware, therefore, of committing such a sacrilege."

As I could not allow myself to believe such a barbarous action, I hastened to the tent, and required an explanation of what had been told me by the child. — A general

silence confirmed the truth of what I had heard, and I abandoned myself to all the fury of my indignation. The Arabs all flocked around me; but my master's brother-in-law was the only person who shewed any signs of being displeased. "Why," said he, "did you not sell these slaves when I offered to buy them? What pleasure or what profit have you procured by destroying them without mercy; why should you treat with so much inhumanity the only one that remains? You allow that he merits respect; you suppose him to be a king; and the riches which he has bestowed on you ought, in my opinion, to have induced you to treat him with kindness."

This last reproach awakened the jealousy of all those who were present, and they unanimously undertook my defence; but Sidy Sellem was the only one who spoke from a spirit of benevolence; the rest spoke after him only in consideration of his greatness and his riches. It was this Sidy Sellem, of the tribe of the Roussye, who treated us so well after our shipwreck, and who told me, that I should one day repent rejecting the proposal which he made of purchasing me.

I now remained the only slave in the hamlet, and I had no longer any companion to whom I could communicate my misfortunes. My situation became every day more and more deplorable, but I formed a resolution of not suffering myself to be affected by it. "Let me boldly face every danger," said I to myself, "I have hitherto supported uncommon fatigues; my health will permit me still to undergo new ones; let me, therefore, bear up with courage; perhaps Providence will soon put an end to my trials!"

This

This resolution, and the conduct I had observed towards those who wished to humble me, had procured me some consideration among the savages, so that from time to time I was suffered to lodge in the back part of their tents: I even sometimes drank out of their vessels. My master, too, suffered me to remain at ease, and I was no longer required to guard his camels. It is true, that he never spoke to me concerning my liberty; but, even if he had, I should have paid very little attention to his words; for, I was so well acquainted with his perfidy, that I had not the least confidence in him.

It was, however, necessary for me to continue to make faggots, in order to provide for my subsistence; but thirst often drove me into the most inconceivable fits of madness. To have an idea of the extremities to which it will reduce a man, one must have experienced its torments. I saw the Arabs themselves in the greatest distress on this account; several of them died of thirst and hunger, and the season did not admit of any relief. This was the fourth time that their crops had been destroyed by drought.— This dismal situation had so irritated the minds of the inhabitants of the different tribes, that they made war upon one another. Milk had entirely failed them, and each tried who could carry off most cattle, in order that they might kill them and dry the flesh. Water was still scarcer; for, there is little to be found in the desert, except towards the sea, and even then, it is black, putrid, and brackish.— This bad beverage, added to the want of pastures, keeps the Arabs always at a distance from the coasts. Destitute of every kind of provisions, no one attempted to pursue his journey; and it was in these circumstances that I beheld to what extremity men may

may be reduced through want. The Arabs, who had the least milk, quenched their thirst from the bowels of the camels which they killed. They pressed a greenish kind of water from the filth found in the stomachs of these animals, which they preserved with great care, and often boiled their flesh in it. That which they procured from the bodies of their goats had the taste and smell of sweet fennel. Broth made of it never appeared to me disagreeable; but that procured from the camel was not so pleasing to the taste. What greatly astonished me was, that those animals, which never drink above twice or thrice in a year, and which eat only dried plants, should have such a prodigious quantity of water in their stomachs, and particularly the camel.

Providence, who had not hitherto abandoned me, still preserved my life, which I wished to abridge by exposing myself to the dangers of a combat. Existence was absolutely become a burden to me; and, in the hopes of putting a period to it, I requested leave from my master to go to the spot where the flocks were feeding, and to join the inhabitants in defending them from the attacks of the neighbouring plunderers. Having accepted my offer, he mounted me on his camel, and gave me a pistol, the only piece of arms which he had in his possession, imploring heaven to protect us, and to grant success to his party. I advanced, therefore, with my pistol in my hand, accompanied by one of my master's relations, and, with my conductor, joined the warriors, who I found observed no kind of order. I do not know whether they were flying or running after one another. I saw only a crowd of men, enveloped in clouds of dust, and I cannot conceive how they could distinguish one another. My camel, which, without

without doubt, was not accustomed to such expeditions, marched very slowly towards the enemy's fire. My conductor soon separated from me, and I saw him fall dead, having received a bullet in the head, which carried away part of his skull. My camel, frightened, began to jump about in a furious manner, and threw me to the distance of ten paces upon a heap of sand. An Arab, on foot, immediately ran up, fired his pistol at me, and instantly dropped down at my feet. Another came up with a poignard, ready to plunge it into my bosom; but, very luckily for me, it happened to get entangled in his turban, which was floating over his shoulders. I immediately seized that opportunity to give him a blow with the butt-end of my pistol; and at the same time pushing him rudely from me, he fell down without any signs of life. This was the only use which I could make of my pistol. I had nothing to load it again, though in general the Arabs never present themselves to engage, without having ammunition for three or four rounds. My pistol twice missed fire. These accidents are not uncommon; for, their arms and powder are very bad. The battles of the Arabs are therefore soon decided. The greatest hurt which these savages do to one another consists in tearing each others faces with their nails, and sometimes stabbing one another with their poignards. The camels, being accustomed to these combats, mingle in the crowd with loud cries; and by their teeth disperse the enemy much sooner than could be done by armed horsemen. When the combat was ended, several of our Arabs came to me, telling me, that I was *good, good*. They were persuaded that I had killed three men, though I had only wounded one.

However,

However, I left them in their error ; and, to save my reputation, I took care to unload my pistol.

“ Since heaven has spared me,” said I to myself, “ I may attempt any thing.” I then formed a project of making my escape, and of robbing my master of all the trinkets and effects which I had given him. With these I proposed to go to some other tribe, and I reasoned in the following manner : “ If any Arab meets me, he will retire to put my booty into some place of safety, and I shall prevail upon him to repair as soon as possible to Morocco.”— This project appeared to me excellent ; and, though I neither knew what route to pursue, nor the dangers which I must encounter, I hastened to put it in execution. Every thing succeeded according to my wishes. I got possession of the treasure, and concealed it in a hole till the next morning, intending to add to my packet a covering, of some kind or other, to secure myself from the cold.

Sidy Mahammet was not long in perceiving that his treasure was gone, and immediately hastened to the bush at the bottom of which I lay. Prayers, threats, and caresses, were all employed to prevail upon me to restore what I had taken ; and, above all, not to speak of it to any one. “ I swear by Mahomet, by every thing that I respect,” said he, “ that I will cause thee to be conducted immediately to Mogadore ; and I promise that I will restore thee thy liberty the first opportunity. Return, I beseech thee, what thou once gavest me. If my wife, who is now ready to lie-in, should be informed of my misfortune, it will affect her too much ; she will lose her child, and, perhaps, her life. Consider the evils of which thou wilt become the cause !”

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This observation of Sidy Mahammet would have had very little effect, had I not reflected, in the night-time, that I might possibly fall into the hands of some miserable wretch, too poor to undertake a long journey, or who, to conceal his robbery, might put an end to my days by stabbing me with his poignard. Pretending, therefore, to be moved by his prayers, I gave way to the present circumstances; but I preserved all the ascendancy which his fear had given me over him; and I told him, that, if he did not keep his word, I would not fail to take from him, a second time, every thing that I had given up. Intimidated by this threat, he renewed his oaths, and promised to allow me punctually, for the future, a certain portion of milk every evening and morning. In this he fulfilled his engagement; but he never more went abroad. He was afraid, that his neighbours, in whose company I continually was, and particularly his relations, should become acquainted with what I had done, and that his dear basket would be taken from him for ever. I believed, therefore, that he sincerely wished to get rid of me; and heaven, at length, furnished him with the opportunity so long looked for.

Chance conducted Sidy Mouhammet, Sherif of the tribe of Trargea, to the place which I was watering with my tears; and, having seen me, he asked who I was. The Arabs told him my history, and they boasted, above all, of the great riches, in powder and fuses, which I was said to possess at Senegal. The Sherif immediately recollected me; he asked me what situation I had been in at the island of St. Louis, and I returned a satisfactory answer to all his questions. Having looked at me nearer, he exclaimed, "What! art thou Briffon?" On my replying

plying in the affirmative, he appeared greatly astonished; and added, addressing himself to the Arabs, "You do not know this Christian; every thing at Senegal belongs to him." This man imagined that all the stores in the King's magazines, which he had seen me deliver, were my property; and my master's brother-in-law, encouraged by this flattering account of my riches, did not hesitate to purchase me, giving five camels in exchange.

I did not know that this bargain was concluded, when I was one day unexpectedly filled both with surprise and joy. Having returned with my master from watering our camels, for the third time during three months, I was commanded by my mistress to carry a leather bucket, which she had borrowed, to a neighbouring tent, where I found Sidy Sellem, who called me, and bid me prepare to set out with him next morning for Mogadore. I had been flattered with this hope, and so often deceived, that I could scarcely persuade myself that he spoke in earnest. However, some appearance of preparation for the proposed journey convinced me that his information was true. The old man himself renewed his protestations; upon which I was so transported, that I threw myself at his feet, wept, sighed, and laughed; in short, I did not know what I was doing. One must have known the value of liberty to feel or to form an idea of what I experienced; when I learned that my chains were about to be broken.

My former master then called me, and told me, that I no longer belonged to him. "I have discharged my promise," added he, "you are going to be restored to your country." On hearing these words, I forgot all my resentment, and gave myself up entirely to joy, which appeared to be doubled

bled, when informed that I was to have a companion on my journey. "We are going to join him," said he, "a few paces hence." I was far from suspecting that he meant the unfortunate baker. When I saw him, I asked him by what miracle he had been brought to life again. Alas!" replied he, "I do not know how I escaped death. Sidy Mahammet surprised me one day milking the camels; he ran up to me, gave me several blows, and squeezed my throat so closely, that I fell almost lifeless at his feet. When I recovered my senses, I was astonished to find myself alone. My neck was covered with blood: you may yet see the marks of his nails. I crawled, in the best manner I could, into the cavern of a rock, the echo of which several times repeated the voice of my barbarous master, who returned to search for me, or at least to see in what situation I was. As he did not find me in the place where he had left me, he called me by my name every where around; but I never returned him an answer. I had resolved either to starve myself to death, or to make for the sea-coast, in hopes of meeting with some vessel. I indeed arrived there, after a journey of ten days, having had no food, during that time, but snails, and nothing else to drink but my own urine. The sight of a small sloop, which lay at anchor near the land, revived my strength; I began to run precipitately towards the shore, to try if I could make myself be observed by signs, and to engage the Captain to send his boat for me; but I had scarcely advanced a few steps among the rocks, with which the sea was bordered, when I was seized by two young Arabs,* who dragged me to some dis-

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tance

* The Arabs, who inhabit the sea coast, live only upon what they catch by fishing. They are exceedingly poor, but
of

tance from the shore. Fear, at seeing myself in their hands, vexation, at being disappointed in my scheme, and, above all, hunger, had reduced me to such an extremity, that I must have infallibly died, had I not received speedy relief. These Arabs took the greatest care of me, and, since that time, I have been their slave. I was employed to tend their goats; for, they had no other flocks, and no other means of subsistence but what they procured by fishing. They appeared to be much milder in their disposition than the Arabs who live in the inland parts of the country, and they are much more industrious. About a fortnight ago, they informed me that they were going to conduct me to the Sultan, and I am inclined to believe that the reason of their bringing me hither was, that they had agreed upon this place of rendezvous, with your master, after having informed him that they had got me in their possession. I sincerely wished," added he, "that you had been with me; you would, without doubt, have been much happier; for, I had no cause to complain of the treatment I met with from these people. They spoke often of you, and it appears that you are well known among them.* But we have met once more. What are they going to do with us? Is it true that they intend to conduct us to the emperor of Morocco?"

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of a much less ferocious disposition than those who live in the interior parts of the country. On that account the latter entertain the most sovereign contempt for them.

* The jewels and trinkets, which I gave to Sidy Mahamet, had procured me so much reputation among all the hordes, that the travelling Arabs asked, when they met any of my companions in distress, — *Art thou Briffon?*

When I had heard the baker's history, I told him, in answer to his questions, that we were really to set out for Morocco; but that we had a very long journey to accomplish. "If we follow the camels," said I, "we shall have much to suffer; besides I do not know how we can subsist; for, we have no female camels, and, consequently, we shall have no milk. I am much afraid, that we shall be obliged to beg from hamlet to hamlet, which will greatly prolong our march."

Next morning, the inhabitants of the tribe of Trargea, having assembled around Sidy Sellem, made a long prayer; after which they ordered to be brought, both for him and for us, a kettle full of broth, made with a kind of meal, procured from a wild seed, of which I have already spoken. To this dish they added a large quantity of milk, and their best wishes for a prosperous journey.

Sidy Mahammet's behaviour, when he took his leave of me, was very affecting. "Adieu, my dear Briffon," said he, "you are going to undertake a very long and laborious journey. You will soon perceive how great reason I had to be afraid of it. I wish no danger may befall you, and that your passage by sea may be more fortunate than the last. Adieu, forget not to send my wife the scarlet cloth. Charge it to the account of Sidy Sellem: once more adieu, my dear Briffon!" The tears, which accompanied the last words, might have imposed on me, had I not known how far this man could carry the art of dissimulation. However, the pleasure I felt at getting away from him made me testify every mark of gratitude for his pretended affection. I even promised to send him what he requested for his wife. He assisted me to get upon the back of

a large camel, which was destined for me and the baker, but which we were obliged to abandon a few days after; and we were not the only persons reduced to this necessity. As these animals could find no pasture, they were not in a condition to continue their journey. Besides, the camels of this country are not capable of enduring much fatigue. On the other hand, as they had no saddles, we could not use them for any length of time. We were, therefore, obliged to go on foot during the remainder of the journey. How much did I suffer when the sand penetrated into the wounds of my feet, which the thorns continually renewed! I often fell down without any hopes of being able to rise up again. However, I was still under the necessity of running here and there to collect the camels, which loitered behind, and we were often obliged also to make forced marches, to avoid those hordes from whose pursuit we apprehended danger.

One day, having found a valley where the rain had lately fallen, and which, on that account, was clothed with verdure, my master stopped, to give a little refreshment to his famished camels. He ascended to the brow of a high mountain, and sat down for some time, that he might see them feed, as he was conducting them to the city to be sold, and I passed him with a view of reaching the summit, thinking that this was the route which we were to pursue. What confirmed me in this opinion was that the old man suffered me to go on, and that I saw a beaten path before me. However, when I reached the top, I retired a little from the path, to shake my long beard, which was continually filled with vermin, notwithstanding all my care. Having remained near an hour behind a bush without seeing

any of my fellow-travellers, I returned to the brow of the mountain; but, what what was my consternation, when I could not behold a single person? "Where are they?" cried I. "Which way have they gone? Whither shall I turn?"—As the hordes who at times encamp in the neighbourhood of these places, go thither with their flocks, for the sake of the pasture, a number of different paths were there united. I could think of no other means, at first, than to call out repeatedly, "Sidy Sellem." At length I discovered, at a distance, four or five Arabs, advancing towards me, to whom I ran up, thinking that they belonged to our party; but I soon perceived my error; for, a large dog, and the most vigorous of these barbarians, fell upon me at the same instant. The Arab gave me a blow on the head, with the back part of his sabre, and, the rest coming up, dragged me towards a cavern in the rock, which served them as a place of shelter.

All hopes of regaining my liberty were now entirely lost, and I began to imagine that I was going to be reduced to a much more intolerable state of slavery than before. I was full of such dismal reflections when these assassins gained a declivity which conducted towards a place where they wished to conceal me from the sight of their companions; but, all on a sudden, in a valley surrounded by rocks, I perceived our camels, and our little caravan, to the number of twenty persons. Having had the good fortune to escape from the hands of these banditti, I had sufficient strength to reach my old master, and the Arabs, who had detained me, being frightened, betook themselves to flight.

My master reprimanded me severely, for my imprudence, and cautioned me never to quit him. I complained,

complained, in my turn, because he did not inform me that the path which I followed was not that which I ought to have pursued, because he had departed without calling me, and without sending to search for me. — He replied, that the reason of his not stopping me in the path was, because he himself had intended to go the same way; but that he had been obliged to follow his camels, as they had strayed through the valley, in search of green herbs, which they had not tasted for a long time. “I was just about to join you,” added he, “when the sound of your voice informed me of your danger, and of that to which I myself might also have been exposed; but I durst neither risk the loss of my camels, nor hazard my life to save yours. However, as we have no time to lose, let us remove as quickly as possible from a place in which I am equally in danger as you are.” Indeed, for more than six hours, we doubled our pace, and we made a forced march, to deceive those who might have attempted to pursue us. We took no kind of food, till the evening of the day following, so that, in the space of forty-eight hours, I tasted nothing but a few handfuls of wild succory, which I had gathered in the fatal valley.

Having set out about break of day, we passed mountains, and traversed plains, covered with calcined flints, which had a great resemblance to the coals of our forges. Above these flints, there appeared at certain distances a whitish kind of earth, upon which lay the trunks of large trees, crossing one another, which had been torn up by the roots. They were entirely stripped of bark, and their branches, as brittle as glass, were twisted together like ropes. The wood was of a yellow colour, resembling

bling that of liquorice, and the interior part of it was filled with a kind of dust, very coarse to the touch. All this announced some extraordinary revolution, and I was curious to know if these trees had any taste of sulphur; but, neither the wood, the pebbles, nor the dust enclosed in the wood, had the least taste or smell.

A little farther we found mountains of a prodigious height, which seemed to be piled one upon another in wild confusion. The rocks, which had been detached from them, had formed, by their fall, so many precipices. Others, suspended in the air, threatened destruction to the traveller, and others, by falling against each other, and, by receiving between them, in their fall, a clayey kind of earth, which is continually rolling down, had formed frightful caverns. The neighbouring valleys were filled with rocks, which appeared to rise upon one another, to produce new masses, no less formidable. In short, we beheld a long chain of mountains, from which pieces of an enormous size were continually falling, which were reduced to powder before they reached the plains below.

In another quarter we beheld two streams of water, one of which carried along with it a kind of blackish mud, which exhaled a sulphureous smell. The other, separated from the former by a small tongue of sand about twelve or fifteen paces in breadth, was purer than crystal. The water of these rills had an agreeable taste, and the bottom of their channels, diversified with pebbles of various colours, appeared to the eye delightful.

In this place, also, I remarked a singular phenomenon, the cause of which I must submit to the ingenuity of my readers. In a hollow bottom, which

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appeared at first to become narrower, on account of the great number of mountains by which it was surrounded, through frightful arches formed by the fall of different rocks piled one upon another, I discovered an immense plain, which excited my astonishment, by the variety it exhibited. This valley, at a distance, presented first a moist soil, marked with furrows, as if it had been formerly intersected by rivulets. The sides of these furrows were covered with several thick layers of nitrous flakes; and the rocks, which surrounded the whole, were encrusted with the same, and, at a little distance, resembled cascades, while large reddish roots, and branches loaded with leaves, twisted themselves through their different crevices. Farther on, towards the East, I saw pyramids of large flints, as white as alabaster, heaped one upon another, which seemed to announce the neighbourhood of a shore, and through which arose tall date-trees, the trunks of which were entirely covered to their extremities. The trunks, which were buried under these heaps of stones, seemed to indicate, by their size and colour, that they were very ancient. Others, scattered here and there, and entirely stripped of their bark, exhibited the most dismal appearance.

Having split, with my nails, one of their branches, and put a bit of it into my mouth, I found it both bitter and salt; but it had no smell. Those which were lying on the ground fell to pieces when I attempted to touch them; and the filaments, that remained under the bark, were covered with a saltish powder, as bright as crystal. The roots, which hung down over the rocks, were of a viscid nature, and the bark separated from them on the slightest touch. I plucked several branches of the wild laurel,

from

from which there issued white drops; and one having fallen upon my hand caused a smart burning pain; it occasioned also a black spot, which carried off the skin, and on this account I did not venture to taste it. In a word, the flints, the layers of nitrous flakes, the date-trees overturned, and the others covered to the very top, the immense space bordered with extremely fine sand, the ground intersected and cut, which seemed to have been ploughed up by torrents; these mountains, if I may say so, torn asunder, all seemed to announce, that the waves of the sea had formerly reached this uncommon spot.— Having asked Sidy Sellem if we were far from it, and if he had ever before traversed these regions, he replied, that we were, perhaps, the first people who had ever visited them; and that he was looking for the sea, which must be before us, that he might afterwards direct his course eastward, towards those parts where he had been told that he would find Arabs, among whom he had friends, in whose company he had formerly made a pilgrimage to Mecca. “Be easy,” added he, “the sun is my guide; it will conduct me to the place of my destination; you may follow the camels without any fear.” Indeed, I now thought that I walked with more facility; but it was not long before I felt the most excruciating pain, when the soles of my feet were filled with salt dust. However, after two days march, I was much astonished to find myself on the sea-coast, and to observe it rolling its foaming waves against an immense precipice below me. Towards the east, from the spot where I stood, its course was terminated by prodigious rocks. When I reflected upon this elevation, I could not allow myself to think that the sea ever could have risen to so great a height.—

"Can these rocks," said I to myself, "have ever served it as a bed?" In short, I lost myself in conjectures; but, as I proposed only to relate facts, it does not become me to enter into learned disquisitions.

After travelling a few days more, still advancing towards Morocco, we found other mountains no less elevated than the former, covered with green, violet, orange, and rose-coloured, pebbles, and I perceived vast forests at a great distance. These were the first I had observed during thirteen months that I had been wandering about in the deserts. I was astonished to see the trunks of these trees issuing from the centre of the rocks, and appearing as it were suspended in the air. I was no less surprised to see roe-bucks chasing one another upon these trees, skipping over the most rugged rocks, and disappearing with incredible velocity, as soon as they found any one approaching. When one of them betook itself to flight, the rest immediately followed. I remarked, that, among several other kinds of trees, the leaves of that which resembled those of the gum-tree, or of our parsley, notwithstanding there were many different species, was the only one in all these countries which had suffered by lightening.

We were three days in traversing these forests. We passed four nights there, and yet I never heard the voice of any of those ferocious animals with which the deserts of Africa are peopled. They must inhabit that part which lies more to the east; but where can they find water?

The farther we advanced, the more our misery decreased. We often found fields of barley fit for the hand of the reaper, and I frequently sat down and feasted on it, with a pleasure which words can hardly

hardly express. Water also began not to be so scarce. Besides, we often fell in with hamlets where we were generally well received; and, in those in which we might have been exposed to danger, Sidy Sellem was respected, on account of his having made a journey to Mecca. The Arabs of the tribe of the Tekænes, however, exceeded all expectation.

After paying him, as a stranger, every usual honour, they ordered milk and barley-meal to be brought him at the accustomed hour. When he had finished his repast, he gave me whatever was left, and I retired to eat it with my new companion, the baker; for, a Christian, especially on a journey, must neither eat, drink, nor sleep, near his master.

When I had supped, I dug a hole in the sand to shelter myself from the cold; and, to prevent the sand from getting into my eyes, I covered my head with the piece of old canvas which I wore around my middle. But, scarcely had I begun to shut my eyes, when I was alarmed with the report of two musquets, which were fired near me, and soon after I perceived two people lay hold of me. I immediately removed the covering I had put over my face, which I observed to be on fire, upon which one of those who held me fast, asked me if I was wounded.

I concluded then, that the fire which adhered to the cloth, had proceeded from the wadding of the piece.

"No," replied I, "I am not wounded: but what have I done, that you should treat me in this manner?" "Sir," said he, "follow us." My master,

awakened by the report of the fire-arms, started up, and hastened towards the place where he heard the sound of my voice. When he came up to us, he made a grievous complaint, and reproached the mountaineer for presuming to treat one of his slaves in

in that manner, and for violating the laws of hospitality with a man like him. The Arab, in a haughty tone, replied, that he did not know I had belonged to him; that he was watching his flocks during the night, and observing a man conceal himself in the sand, he had supposed me to be one of those plunderers who take the advantage of the night-time to carry off kids. Sidy Sellem pretended to believe him, and, having passed high encomiums upon his vigilance, rescued me from his hands. As soon as he thought that all was quiet in the hamlet, he set out, and hastened to remove from a place where he was under as great apprehensions for himself as for me.

These Arabs, of the tribe of the Telkænes, have the weakest constitutions of all those whom I saw in the desert. They live in the midst of mountains of sand, formed by the winds. One would almost say, that they hide themselves from the light of the day, so difficult is it to penetrate into their retreats, or to return from them. The plains in their neighbourhood are full of venomous serpents. I was thrice witness to the terror which they occasion to the camels; and these animals, when once frightened, betook themselves to flight, and obliged both me and the baker to traverse a great deal of ground before we could collect them.

At length we approached the celebrated city of Gouadnum, which I had heard so often mentioned before. Through the clefts of the rocks, I saw, at a distance, a city, built in an elevated situation, the neighbourhood of which seemed to announce very strong fortifications; but, when I advanced nearer, I perceived nothing but mud walls almost in ruins. Through the openings in them I could distinguish
several

several of the inhabitants, who seemed to meditate no good design. When the chief of the town was informed that Sidy Sellem was at the head of this small caravan, he came out to meet him, followed by four negro slaves, carrying on their heads a basket of dates, which their master intended as a present. Having asked them if that was Gouadnum which I saw before me, they replied that it was not. "This is the fort of Labat," added they; "the city is a little farther distant, you may now see it." We indeed arrived there two hours after.

This city, so long wished for, is a place of refuge to the most desperate rebels of all the different tribes. It is divided into two parts. The lower part was commanded by Sidy Adalla, and there was another governor for the higher part, which is situated upon a little hill, and has a great resemblance to the fort of Labat. Almost all the houses are constructed in the same manner. Four large walls enclose an immense space of ground. All those of the same party erect a large building, lighted only by the door, and the top, which remains open. The four walls, which surround this habitation, are exceedingly high. There is only one door in the whole circumference, which is guarded by large dogs. Each individual has also a dog for his own safety; for, without this precaution, though enclosed within these walls, he would run a risk of being robbed by some of his neighbours, possessed of more courage or dexterity than himself.

I could not reconcile this general distrust with the extensive commerce which is carried on in this city. I saw here two markets, which undoubtedly were not inferior in any thing to the greatest fairs in the provinces of France. Though a great deal
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of specie circulates in them, I am of opinion that the greater part of the trade is carried on by barter. Most beautiful wool is found here in abundance, and, above all, woollen stuffs, half white and half crimson, which are used for making dresses. The dealers, who come to purchase them in order to sell them again in the interior parts of the country, give camels in exchange. Their usual profit is four hundred per cent. and upon these articles they gain much less than upon wheat, barley, dates, horses, sheep, goats, oxen, she-asses, tobacco, gunpowder, combs, small mirrors, and other toys, which are not carried to a great distance. They are consumed in several small towns in the country, in which markets are held upon certain fixed days.

What is most surprising is, that the Jews are the only people who carry on this trade. They are, however, exposed to the most humiliating insults.—An Arab snatches the bread * from the hand of an Israelite, enters his house, and makes him give him a handful of tobacco, often beats him, never treats him but with the greatest insolence, and yet the poor Jew must suffer all this with patience. It is true, that he indemnifies himself, after his own manner, by the address with which he disposes of his merchandise to advantage, and by the dexterity with which he deceives an Arab; but, in general, the latter are no less cunning.

* It was at Gouadnum that I first began to see bread. Whether it be owing to a scarcity of bricks and stones, or that the use of ovens is not yet introduced among the Arabs, they bake their bread upon flints, made red hot. Bread, made in this manner, is very good. That, which the emperor ordered to be furnished to the consul, appeared to me to be baked differently, though I could not tell in what manner. I found it very agreeable to the taste.

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The two chiefs who command at Gouadnum have no other superiority but that which is given them by fortune; riches, in this respect, make the only distinction.

In this city, I met with a Moor, who happened to be on the sea-coast at the time of our shipwreck. I was under great obligations to him; for, he treated me with much kindness. His sister-in-law, Paphye, appeared to be much interested in my favour.— During eight days, that I remained at Gouadnum, she employed me in grinding barley. She fed me well, and I can say that she shewed me every mark of esteem and attention; she was even desirous that I would continue with her; but nothing was equal to the generous assistance which I received from the Jew Aaron and his wives, notwithstanding the ingratitude he had met with from several Christians. Having quitted Gouadnum, after reposing eight days, I found nothing, between that place and Mogadore, but towns and castles, situated for the most part on the tops of high mountains. At a distance, one would have taken them for superb mansions; but, when seen near, they had all the same appearance. In this part of the journey, we did not fare so well; for, the nearer we approached the city, the less hospitality we found. It is very probable, that the inhabitants are afraid of the influx of foreign travellers.

We had been now sixty-six days on our journey. My strength was exhausted, my legs were prodigiously swelled, my feet were all covered with running sores, * and I should have infallibly sunk un-

* One of the prickles of the gum-tree had entered one of my feet, and I was never able to extract it until it was entirely rotten.

der my misfortunes, had not my master, to revive me, said every now and then, "Behold the sea! Dost thou not see the ships? Have a good heart; we are almost at our journey's end!" Hope supported me; and, at the moment when I least expected it, I at length perceived the element of which I had so much cause to complain, and which was going yet once more to be the arbiter of my fate. On quitting a labyrinth of broom-brushes, we arrived at the top of a few little sand-hills; when, to my inexpressible joy,—a joy of which the reader can scarcely form any idea,—I saw the French colours, and those of several other nations, floating over the poop of different vessels, lying at anchor in the harbour of Mogadore, which I as yet knew only by the name of Soira. "Well, Briffon," said my master, "speak, then, art thou not content? Dost thou not see the vessels? Are there any French? I promised to conduct thee to the consul, and you see that I have kept my word. But what is the matter?—thou art quite silent!" Alas! what could I answer?—I could scarcely give vent to my tears, and to articulate the least word was impossible. I surveyed the sea, the colours, the ships, and the city, and thought that every thing I beheld was only an illusion. The unhappy baker, no less exhausted than myself, and equally surprised, united his sighs with mine; while my tears bathed the hands of the generous old man, who had been the means of my enjoying so agreeable a prospect.

We at length arrived at the city; but I was not entirely free from disquietude. I was afraid of being still detained as a slave. I learned, before I quitted France, that the emperor had behaved very ill to Mr. Chenier, who was *chargé des affaires*, and that the

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the latter had complained to his court. I did not know whether the ministry had listened to his complaints, and whether a new consul had been appointed. In any event, I had great reason for entertaining suspicions. I was, however, soon freed from my apprehensions. On entering the city, having met two Europeans, "Whoever you may be," said I, "behold the misery of an unfortunate man, and deign to assist him! Grant me some consolation, and revive my drooping spirits. Where am I? Of what country are you? What day of the month is it? What day of the week is it?" I found that I had addressed myself to two of my countrymen, from Bourdeaux; who, after surveying me for some moments, went to inform Messrs. Duprat and Cabannes, who are always ready, and consider it as part of their duty, to afford every assistance in their power to those unhappy people who are driven upon these coasts. These gentlemen came to meet me; and, without being disgusted by my external appearance, which was far from being inviting, they clasped me in their arms, and shed tears of joy, because they had it in their power to relieve an unfortunate man. "All your misfortunes, sir, are now," said they, "at an end! Come along with us, we will endeavour to make you forget them."—They immediately carried me along with them, after they had told my master to follow them, and to be perfectly easy respecting the agreement that I might have made with him. I begged these gentlemen to permit me to bring not only Sidy Sellem but also his son along with me. Their house became in a manner mine; and every care, attention, and mark of friendship, was bestowed upon me, without the least affectation. They dressed me from

head to foot in their own clothes, until I should have a suit made to fit me; and, soon after, I received visits from all the Europeans who were at that time in Mogadore. They congratulated me on the happy change of my condition; and that I had arrived at so fortunate a crisis as that of the entry of a new consul, who had brought with him, from France, very rich presents for the emperor.

The same day I was presented to the governor of the place, who signified to us that we must go to Morocco. The emperor had declared his intentions, and he was desirous of seeing all the slaves with his own eyes, and of letting them hear the order for their liberty from his own mouth.

We set out, therefore, eight days after, with a guard; my master, I, and the baker, whom Sidy Mahammet had remitted to his brother, reserving to himself the ransom that might be received for him. We were furnished with mules, a tent, and people to serve us, and we arrived at Morocco after a march of four days.

The first thing I observed was the tower of one of the mosques, which may be perceived at a great distance. I expected to have discovered the habitation of the antient emperors, and some remains of antiquity; but nothing has less resemblance to these than the palace of the sovereign of Fez and Mequinez. The walls which surround it are of earth, and the two corners of it are falling into ruins; one would almost be induced to take them for the walls of an old burying-ground. The houses near to the palace are low, and constructed in the same style as those of Gouadnum, but they are more dirty and less airy.

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The guard, which had the care of my person, presented me to the consul and the vice-consul, who offered me lodging and the use of their table until I should be able to procure a passage to France. A second guard came soon after to tell me, that the emperor, informed of my arrival in the capital, had given orders that I should immediately be conducted to his presence. I therefore followed this messenger, who carried me through several vast courts, in which I saw nothing but very high walls, sand, and a scorching sun, the rays of which are diffused over the place during the whole day. I at length arrived at that in which his majesty's guards were assembled. Those, who serve near his person, are armed with fuses. Their dress consists in a tunic of any colour whatever, and a cloak like those of the Carthusians, with a hood. On their heads they wear a small cap of red leather, with a plume of blue feathers over it, and their naked feet are only half concealed by slippers, which, in walking, they are obliged to drag after them. They use the cover of their fuses as a sash, and have a belt round their bodies, from which hangs a cartouch-box. Those who appeared to me not to be on duty had no other arms than a white staff.

The horsemen are dressed in the same manner. They wear half-boots without feet, and large spurs nine or ten inches in length, which have a great resemblance to thick iron spikes. Their horses sides are almost always open to the quick. Their riders continually torment them, and seem to make this their chief pleasure. Such is the true picture of the troops of the Emperor of Morocco.

Whilst I was waiting for an audience, I saw a captain review his troop. He was seated on the ground,

ground, with his chin resting upon his two fists, and his arms placed upon his knees, which were bent upwards. He made his soldiers advance two by two, then gave his orders, and the latter, after prostrating themselves before him, retired to their posts, or went to enjoy their amusement.

Five or six of those who were armed with white slaves jumped suddenly upon me, seized me by the collar, as if I had been a malefactor, and, having ordered two large folding-doors, like those of our barns, to be opened, pushed me rudely into a kind of inclosure, where I in vain looked for any thing that might announce the majesty of the throne. Having walked fifteen or twenty paces past a kind of wheel-barrow, such as those commonly to be met with in every street of Paris, my attendants made me suddenly turn round; and, pushing me in a very brutal manner, ordered me to prostrate myself before this wheel-barrow, in which the emperor sat amusing himself with stroking his toes, which he held upon one of his knees. He looked at me for some time, and then asked me if I was not one of those Christian slaves, who had been shipwrecked upon his coasts about a year before; what was the intention of my voyage to Senegal, &c. "You were lost through your own fault," said he. "Why did you not keep farther from the shore?" "Art thou rich?" added he. "Art thou married?" I had scarcely returned an answer to these questions, when he ordered paper and ink to be brought him, with a small reed, which he used as a pen; and with which he traced out the four cardinal points, to shew me that Paris lay towards the north. He then wrote down a few ciphers, after the French manner, as far as twelve, asking me if I knew them.

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He also put several other questions of the same kind to me, to display the great extent of his learning.

"Tell me," continued the prince, "did the mountaineers* treat thee well? did they take much of thy effects?" I readily replied to all his questions, and observed to him, that, in proportion as we approached the capital, we found the manners of the inhabitants milder, and more civilized. "My authority does not extend," replied he, "over all the country which thou hast traversed, or, rather, my orders cannot be conveyed so far. With whom didst thou come?" "With Sidy Sellem, of the tribe of Roussye." "I know him," said the emperor, "let him be brought hither." A moment after my master was introduced, in the same manner as that which I have already described.

The emperor having asked him if he had purchased me at a dear rate, and what were his intentions, he artfully replied, that he had no other view in exposing himself to the danger of traversing these immense countries than to go and prostrate himself at the feet of his sovereign, and to offer him the homage of his slave.† "Dost thou know," continued the emperor, "if there are any more amongst the Ouadelims and the Labdesseba? for, it is those who have taken them all." "Yes, Sire," replied my patron, "there are some more, whom I could

* The Arabs who live in cities call the inhabitants of the desert rebellious mountaineers.

† It is very certain, that, if Sidy Sellem had not been desirous of rendering homage to the emperor, (for, during fifty years, he had not been at Morocco,) and if he had not besides been called to the city by particular business, I should never have been restored to my country. I was carried too far into the interior parts ever to find an opportunity of escaping from them,

easily collect, if your majesty will give me an order for that purpose." The emperor did not carry the conversation any farther. He commanded one of his guards to take care of me and the baker, till he should receive fresh orders, and to supply me with food from the royal kitchen. This guard appeared to be greatly surpris'd, that the sultan should have discours'd so long with a slave.

Next morning the consul sent to demand me from the guard, telling him, that, when the emperor enquired for me, he might find me at his house. I therefore went and took up my lodging in an apartment which had been before occupi'd by the Spanish ambassador. The emperor, desirous of testifying the like respect for the envoy of France, had order'd the same lodging to be assign'd to him.

This palace, the most beautiful that the emperor has at his disposal, is nothing else than a long kind of vault, under ground, the arch of which is supported by two rows of pillars. The way to go down to it is by a small glaci's, and it receives no other air than that which is admitted by a few small slits formed in the top of the arch. The emperor employs it as a store-house for keeping his tents and warlike equipage, and nothing else is to be seen in it but bare walls, spiders webs, bats, and large rats. This edifice is situated in the most beautiful of the imperial gardens, which is ornamented with olive, quince, pomegranate, and apple trees. The four high walls which surround it, make those who walk in it almost imagine that they are state-prisoners. The emperor, when he lodges the ambassadors or representatives of foreign courts here, gives them no kind of furniture whatever. He is contented with ordering a certain quantity of beef, mutton,

mutton, poultry, bread, and water, to be distributed amongst them.

The imperial palace consists of six vast courts, surrounded by high walls. The outside of the seraglio resembles that of a barn, and the mosque is built in the same taste. I do not know whether the inside be pretty, but the outside is far from having an agreeable aspect. The city is separated from the palace by large heaps of dirt; and the dung and the bones of animals killed by the inhabitants, thrown one upon another, form a mound, as one may say, around the capital. Some of these pyramids of filth are found in the heart of the city. They even over-top the houses in such a manner as to exclude the light from them, and a putrid vapor is continually exhaled from them by the heat of the sun. The houses are exceedingly ill-built; they resemble our stables, and have no court-yard or area. The streets are remarkably narrow, and are in part covered with straw.

The consul and I having one day occasion to alight, whilst we were riding out in company with the American ambassador who had taken a lodging in the city, the people who have very little or rather no politeness, ran after us in crowds, and interrupted us greatly in our way, though we had a guard to attend us. Without this precaution, one would be in danger of being torn to pieces. This, however, did not prevent me from receiving a blow on the head from a stone, but I could neither discover the hand who threw it nor from what quarter it had come.

What I have here related, is a faithful description of the city of Morocco. With regard to the inhabitants, they differ very little from those of the
L deserts.

defarts. They are somewhat more civilized, and their colour is almost white. The sight of Europeans, to whom they are more accustomed, astonishes them less, but they behave to them in the most insulting manner. I have seen several of them enter the consul's house, and that of Mr. Duprat, sit down without being asked, call for victuals and drink, and even insist upon having something nice and delicate. A porter, who had only had the trouble of opening, for the consul, the door, leading to the court in which the emperor was, came in the most impudent manner and demanded a gratification. Though he received several pieces of silver coin, he appeared dissatisfied, and he continued to hold out his hand, saying *zi*, "give more, that is not sufficient," with an arrogance equally ridiculous as his request.

The secretaries and clerks behave in the same manner, and they lay all those under contribution who have any business to transact with them. The principal officers of the crown are still greedier of presents, and, above all, of dollars, which are worth above five livres ten sols, French money, or four shillings and seven pence, sterling. Their master always takes care to ask them what such an affair or business has brought them. He gives them distinguished employments, or sends them as ambassadors; and, when he conceives that they have amassed a certain fortune, he accuses them of bad conduct in their office, strips them of all their riches, and leaves them to end their days in a prison. His own children are not exempted from these acts of barbarity. Moulem-Adaram, of whom I have already spoken, does not lead a wandering life in the desert among robbers but in consequence of his having been a victim

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victim to the avarice of his father. I do not know whether this young prince ever shewed any good qualities; but he is considered in the desert as a barbarian, who will be a cruel tyrant if ever he mount the throne. At present, it appears to be destined for his brother, Moulem Azy,* who is equally worthless as he.

I cannot here help observing, how extraordinary it is, that a prince, so little to be dreaded as the Emperor of Morocco, should require the powers of Europe to send ambassadors to him, and even to oblige them, in some measure, to become tributary to him. There is not a single sovereign who ventures to send a representative to his court without at the same time making him considerable presents; and what envoy would venture to appear before him without having his hands full? When Mr. Chenier, the French *Chargé des affaires*, delivered his dispatches to the emperor, his majesty, taking it into his head to be offended, caused them to be wrapped up in a dirty handkerchief, and to be suspended from the neck of the consul, who was thus publicly exposed to the raillery and insults of the cruellest of nations. How happens it, that the consuls have not all united, and had the spirit to represent, to their respective sovereigns, that the king of Fez and Mequinez becomes every day more and more formidable, only by the supplies with which they furnish him. Twenty years ago, this prince was absolutely destitute of resources. He had neither materials nor places for casting cannon, and he was equally in want of wood for building ships, of ropes,

* This was written before my return from Senegal. Since that time, the son has declared war against the father.

of nails, and even of workmen. It is France, and other maritime powers that assist him, else the emperor of Morocco would be of little consideration. His superb batteries of brass cannon, twenty-four, thirty-six, and forty-eight, pounders, were furnished by Holland, Spain, England, and France. England has done more than other nations, by selling to him those beautiful cannons which were taken in the floating batteries.

Mogadore, that part of it which is next to Morocco, is built in an advantageous situation. Its batteries are well disposed, and there are cannon at each embrasure; but they are there merely in a manner for show, as they have no carriages, and are mounted only on brick work. There are no workmen capable of fitting them to carriages, nor is there timber proper for making them. Every thing of that kind is wanting to the emperor. Did a few vessels only wait for the sailing of his small frigates, which are almost all unfit for sea, except two, which Mure, the vice-consul, advised and even solicited him to repair, nothing would be easier than to prevent them from returning, and to block up Mogadore, Rabat, and Sallee. What would become of his commerce, and, above all, of his marine, did the Christian princes cease to assist him, contrary to the dictates of humanity? Would England and Spain unite only for a moment, Tangiers, his most beautiful port, would soon be so far ruined, that it could not afford shelter to his subjects, who, destitute of ships, would be obliged to abandon their piracies.

If the consuls of different nations have never made the like observations, and if they have never pointed out the means of checking the insolence of the emperor

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emperor of Morocco, it is because they are at the head of all the commerce which these powers carry on in that part of the world. The Spanish consul buys up almost all the corn of the country, and vessels are dispatched with it according to his consignments. The French consul is the only one who does not engage in commerce. In short, I can positively assert, that these representatives, instead of furnishing their courts with the means of diminishing the power of the emperor, never cease to add to his strength, and to incite him to form new pretensions. How much we assist these pirates to hurt the advantageous trade which we might carry on! Their situation renders them very dangerous; but, if we leave them only their situation, it will be impossible for them to profit much by it. Let impartial and unprejudiced people pay a visit to that country, let them speak with the same sincerity as I do, and mankind will, no doubt, be convinced, that the emperor of Morocco, of all the princes in the world, would be the least able to do mischief, did the sovereigns of Europe cease to furnish him with succours,

The happy moment at length arrived, when my chains were about to be broken. The prince one day, as he was coming out from the mosque, sent word to the consul, to repair with his slaves to the court in which he keeps his *Mecchoir*; that is to say, gives audience. "Consul," said he to Mr. Durocher, "I hope thou wilt not behave like thy predecessor, whose haughtiness displeased me much. Behold this man," pointing to the vice-consul, "he is young, affable and polite; he has always endeavoured to please me. Thou must copy him; I command thee to do so, and thou mayest write
to

to thy master, that I am satisfied with his services. Adieu, thou art at liberty to retire with thy slaves, whom I now deliver up into thy hands.”*

It is generally at this audience that the emperor causes an account to be given him respecting every thing that concerns the police. He appears mounted upon a beautiful courser, caparisoned with blue and scarlet cloth, and having golden tassels hanging over his crupper. Close to his majesty walks a groom, bearing in his hand a long pole, to the end of which is fixed an umbrella, to defend his majesty from the rays of the sun. His guards follow on foot in the greatest silence. Every thing around announces terror, and the sovereign's look always carries consternation along with it. On the slightest order, he beholds, without emotion, the heads of several of his subjects instantly struck off. Scarcely have the last words of the sentence proceeded from his mouth, when the unhappy criminal is stretched out lifeless. However, no person who is rich ever suffers death, whatever his crime may be, provided he chooses to purchase a pardon.

What opinion can be formed of a prince, who, from an idea which had been suggested to him, that I was undoubtedly a Christian of more distinction than the rest, because I was more genteelly dressed, and because the consul shewed me some attention, forgot all his promises, and sent orders to Mogadore to arrest me, and bring me back to Morocco? Happily for me, the winds had already wafted me to a considerable distance, before the courier could signify to the governor the orders of his master.

* We were in number seven, viz. myself, the baker, and five others, belonging to a vessel called *The Two Friends*, which had been shipwrecked some time before us.

I may therefore say, that misfortune pursued me even to the last moment. I should have sunk under my distresses, like my unhappy companions, had I not possessed a constancy which nothing could shake, and had I not had the most unbounded confidence in the goodness of Divine Providence. I must not forget to mention, that, before my departure, Sidy Sellem had set out on his return, very well satisfied with the generosity of the consul.

Being unwilling to interrupt the thread of my narration, I thought it would be better to subjoin to this account the different observations which I had an opportunity of making on the religion, manners, and customs of a people very little known, and which, on that account, cannot fail of being interesting. The reader may be assured, that I shall be as tenacious of truth in the description I am going to give as I have hitherto been in the recital of my own private adventures.

The Arabs of the desert follow the religion of Mahomet; but they have entirely disfigured it by the grossest superstitions. They always move about from place to place, and lead a wandering life amidst the dry sands of Africa. There are some bodies of them who continually hover about the sea-coast, without ever establishing themselves in any particular spot. They are divided into tribes, more or less considerable; every tribe is sub-divided into hordes, and every horde encamps in those cantons which are properest for supplying them with pasture for

for their cattle, so that a whole tribe is never entirely united. They are almost all found intermixed with some hamlets of those of the Ouadelims, the Labdesseba, the Roussye, the Lathidierim, the Chelus, the Lucanois, the Ouadelis, &c. The two first are the most formidable; they carry their ravages even to the gates of Morocco. The emperor has just cause to be afraid of them. They are all strong well-made men, extremely robust and vigorous. In general they have woolly hair, long beards, savage looks, large hanging ears, and long nails like claws, which they always use in their continual wars with their neighbours. The Ouadelims, above all, more revengeful, arrogant, warlike, and inclined to plundering, spread terror and consternation wherever they pass. They are, however, destitute of courage, as well as the other Arabs, unless when they have a decided superiority in numbers.

All these people lodge with their families under tents, covered with a coarse cloth made of camels hair. It is spun by the women, and they weave it upon looms, which are so small, that they can use them when they are sitting on the ground. The furniture of their habitations consists of two large leather bags, containing a few rags, and some pieces of old iron, three or four goats skins, if they can procure so many, in which they keep their milk and their water, several wooden basons, some harness for their camels, two large stones to grind barley, a smaller one to drive into the earth the pegs of their tents, an osier mat, which serves them for a bed, a coarse carpet to cover them, and a small kettle. Such are the utensils which distinguish the rich from the poor.

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Their flocks, which form their whole riches, consist of two or three he-camels, several she ones, a few sheep, and some goats. Those, to whom fortune has been less propitious, have only sheep and goats.

The first of all their duties, and that which they observe most scrupulously, is prayer, of which there are several kinds. The first begins always before sun-rising. The *Talbe*, distinguished by his long beard, a piece of woollen stuff, half white and half crimson, which he suffers to float around his body, and under which appears a figure, dry and worn-out by long fasting, the consequence of his excessive laziness, and by a chaplet of an enormous *sur*, raises a loud and lamentable voice, which one would be apt to believe to be that of a pious and contrite man, but which is only that of a hypocrite. Armed with a poignard, he seeks for a spot where his perfidious arm may in the greatest safety give the fatal blow, which pierces the bosom of his neighbour or his friend, and often even of his brother. By certain sounds, he informs the horde to come and range themselves under his banner, and to hear there the praises of their prophet. All immediately flock to him with holy respect; but, before he begins his prayer, they pull off a small kind of petticoat, which hangs from their girdle, and wrap themselves up in it as well as in the other parts of their dress. The *Talbe* then bends himself towards the ground, removes with his hands the earth upon which his feet were placed, takes a handful of that which he has not trod upon, and, for want of water, rubs it over his face, hands, and arms, as far as the elbows, to cleanse himself from his impurities, and the people imitate him in all

his actions. When prayer is ended, they remain some time seated on the ground, trace out with their fingers various figures on the sand, and turn them around their head, as if they were besprinkling themselves with holy water. During this ceremony, these savages shew as much exterior piety and respect as we do in our churches. I do not, however, believe that it is possible to pay less regard to religion than they do as soon as their prayers are finished. The women, who assist only at those in the morning, and at those performed at ten at night, place themselves in the entrance of their tents, with their faces turned towards the east.

Next to the first exercise of religion comes the care of milking their flocks. They begin by the she-camels, giving them a great many blows with their feet, till they make them rise up. As soon as they are on their legs, they take off from their udders a kind of covering, made of ropes worked together, which is intended to prevent the young camels from sucking. The young one then runs up to its mother, and, by its caresses, prepares her to yield her milk in greater abundance. The master, and the keeper of the flock, watch for the moment when the lips of the young camel are covered with a white foam; they then separate it from its mother, and each resting his head on different sides against the animal's belly, they press the udder, from which they sometimes draw five pints of milk, when the rains have rendered the earth fruitful. The keeper of the flock, after taking a few draughts every time he milks, pours the rest into a vessel destined for that purpose, and placed by the side of his mistress; for, he is allowed no other nourishment than the milk which he draws from the last of the camels.—

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When all the milk is thus collected, the mistress puts aside her part, which is never the least; then serves her husband and his children, and lays up the rest in a goat's skin, which she leaves exposed to the sun before she makes butter. Three or four hours after, the young girls bring from the fields the sheep and the goats. The mother, who is always present at the last milking, mixes the milk which she procures by it with that of the camels, and, when the sun has sufficiently warmed it, they put it into a goat's skin, and, by shaking it, convert the creamy part into butter; what remains, serves as drink for the rest of the day. When the butter is churned, they put it into small skins, where it acquires a rancid smell, which, according to the taste of these barbarians, greatly enhances its value. The women use it as pomatum for their hair; without this they would think something deficient in their dress.

One can scarcely conceive to what a length these females carry their coquetry. They divide their hair with the greatest art into tresses, some of which they suffer to float over their bosoms, and affix to them every thing they can find. I have seen some who ornamented them with shells, small keys, padlocks, rings, and buttons, which they had taken from the sailors. When their hair is arranged in this manner, they cover it with a cloth as dirty as a dish-clout, which encloses their whole head, and even half of the nose, and which is tied under the chin. To give more lustre to their eyes, they paint them all round with a large copper needle, which they rub upon a kind of blue stone. All their art in adjusting their dress consists in folding it with neatness, and making it keep its plaits, though they

employ for that purpose neither pins, laces, nor sewing. That their dress may be complete, they must dye the nails of their feet and hands of a red colour. A Mooreess, to be reckoned a beauty, must have long teeth sticking out of her mouth; the flesh, from her shoulder to her elbow, loose and flabby; her body, legs, and thighs, prodigiously thick; a heavy hobbling gait, and bracelets, like the collar of a Danish dog, upon her arms and legs: in a word, from infancy they endeavour to efface those shapes, for which they are indebted to nature, in order to substitute others, highly ridiculous and disagreeable. They have no other wardrobe than the articles I have already mentioned. Besides the periodical inconvenience to which all women are subject, when one is told that they bring forth their children on the same clothes which they wear, that they receive their nastiness, and that they use them also for wiping their nose, one must form a very disgusting idea of the cleanliness of a Moorish woman.

Could any one believe, that such hideous and frightful females are jealous, and fond of propagating scandal? This, however, is the case. If one of them has occasion to borrow any thing from a neighbour, and if the husband happens to be in the tent, she veils her face, and presents herself at the entrance, with a timid and trembling air; but, if her neighbour happen to be by herself, they begin to rail against all their acquaintances who are able to dress in a superior style. The conversation is prolonged, a third neighbour arrives, who puts in her word also, so that the half of the day is spent in speaking ill of others, and they often separate, without recollecting what they had come to borrow.—

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They are also remarkably lazy, and fond of gormandizing. When they know that camels or goats flesh is roasting in any tent, they will expose themselves to every affront in order to procure some of it.— Their favourite part is the liver.

The men have almost the same faults. They will pass whole days stretched out on their mats, sometimes asleep, at others smoking, or making some one free them from the vermin with which they are continually tormented. This office is generally assigned to the women; but the men have no aversion to do it reciprocally for one another. In short, one need not be astonished that their vermin should swarm throughout the whole country, since they are satisfied with throwing them on the ground, without giving themselves the trouble to destroy them.— Notwithstanding all my precautions, my beard was always full of them; and I can say, that this was not the least of the miseries which I suffered during my captivity.

The men assemble sometimes in the day-time to entertain one another with their warlike exploits. Each mentions the number of enemies he has killed. For the most part, the appellation of liar is instantly bestowed upon him who ventures to make an assertion ridiculously false, the dispute becomes warm, and the conversation is terminated by their daggers. They can never agitate the most indifferent subject without having their eyes sparkling with rage. Fury is displayed in all their gestures, and they never go about any of their domestic affairs without great noise and clamour.

Perfidy and treachery are also two vices inherent in every Arab, and on this account they never go out of their tents without being armed. They could
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never carry on business by granting written securities; for he who received a bond would assuredly be stabbed by the person who signed it: they always carry whatever they have most valuable in a small leathern purse, suspended from their necks. Though in their tents they use neither locks nor keys, I have seen some who had small coffers; but even these coffers, the contents of which in value seldom exceed half-a-crown, are an object of desire to a whole horde. In this respect, I can except neither brother nor father, nor even the son of him who possesses it. My master's brother, of all the Arabs, shewed the greatest jealousy on account of the small booty with which I had enriched him. He even proposed to me one day, as a very trifling thing, to cut his throat in the night-time. For this purpose he offered me his poignard, and promised to conduct me to Morocco as soon as I should execute this crime. However discontented I might be with my situation, this proposal shocked me, and filled me with horror. Nevertheless, a few days after, it was renewed, in a very earnest manner, by one of the uncles of Sidy Mahamet, who of all his relations appeared to be most attached to him. More than once have I seen this man steal privately into my master's tent, in the night-time, to pilfer some piece of old iron, or the end of a girth; and yet this wretch was one of the most considerable people in the hamlet. He was consulted in various disputes, and his decision was a law to the poor; as for the rich, they never acknowledge any.

Young people are early accustomed to use a poignard, to tear out the bowels of their adversary with their nails, and to conceal a lie, in an artful manner, under the veil of truth. Those, who to

these

these talents add the art of reading and writing, become the most dangerous monsters, as they acquire among their countrymen a much greater pre-eminence. It may be said, that they are familiarised with crimes from their infancy; and that they are taught to commit them with the same pleasure as if they were performing the most meritorious action.

According to the custom of the country, every stranger, of whatever tribe or canton he may be, known or unknown, must be treated with hospitality. If there are several travellers, each inhabitant must contribute something towards the expence of entertaining them. All without distinction go to meet them, congratulate them upon their arrival, and carry their baggage to the bottom of the bush which is destined to shelter them during the night; for, it is an established rule, that no stranger can be admitted into their tents. When this ceremony is ended, all sit down around their new guest, and interrogate him respecting the country from which he has come, whether such a tribe have evacuated the spot in which they were encamped, whether he met with others in the nearest or most remote cantons; and, lastly, whether he found much pasture in the places which he traversed. When he has answered all these questions, they ask to what tribe he belongs; but they never enquire after his health until they have satisfied themselves respecting every other point which they wish to know.

If the stranger be acquainted with no person in the horde which he visits, the richest in it must always maintain him while he stays. If there be several, the expence, as I have already said, becomes common. Each receives a large basin of milk, and some barley-meal mixed with the same liquid boiled,
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or with water, when it can be procured. If the visitor can read, he has the honour of repeating the prayers. — In that case, the *Talbe* of the hamlet places himself close by him, as master of the ceremonies. All his entertainment is confined to this if he be a stranger of whom little is known; but, if he have friends in the horde, and if he be considered as rich, a ram or a fat sheep is killed to regale him. The wife prepares the repast, and, before she bakes the meat, she separates the fat from it, which she serves up raw. When the flesh is baked, she begins by putting her husband's share on one side, after which she sets apart certain portions for such of his friends as he lives with upon good terms. To be wanting in this duty would be an unpardonable omission. At length she displays with great care, upon a little straw, the part destined for the traveller. The Arab, who treats, is always followed by a Christian slave or negro, who carries upon his head the repast intended for the guest, which, however, is never served up till the hour of ten at night, though he may have arrived early in the morning. The custom is to offer nothing but at night, and always by moon-shine, or by the light of a large fire; for, the Arabs kindle fires in almost every season. The traveller never fails to press, with much earnestness, the person who accompanies the dish to do him the honour of partaking with him; but the latter refuses as much as he possibly can, and this refusal is founded upon the respect which he bears towards his guest.

Next morning the travellers continue their journey without taking leave of any one. This manner of behaving to one another is certainly very commendable; but what stratagems do they not employ

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employ to save themselves from this expence!—When an unknown traveller appears, they place at a small distance from their tent a camel's saddle, a mat, a fufee, and a small package, which appears to be the baggage of some other traveller who has halted; but often these precautions do not prevent the stranger from depositing his luggage close by. Upon this, the chief goes and informs him, that they belong to some Arab of a neighbouring hamlet. This, however, is a trick, to which they are well-accustomed, and on that account the visitor never stirs; but they revenge themselves for his importunity, by giving him a very scanty allowance. He then looks around on every side, and, if he perceives a fire, he hastens thither, in hopes of finding either meat or some soup. At first, he is very careful to conceal himself behind the tent, that he may hear what passes, and whether they are eating; for, they are cunning enough, in order to prevent such visits, to remove quickly the three stones that support their kettle; and in that case he is sure of success, for they never see any one pass, without inviting him to enter and take a part of their entertainment. It often happens, that, while he is running in search of a good supper, the effects which he deposited behind a bush, are stolen from him; but this is only a trifle, for, on the first opportunity, he indemnifies himself by serving others in the like manner.

It would be difficult to form a proper idea of the pride and ignorance of these Arabs. They not only consider themselves as the first people in the world, but they have the ridiculous vanity to believe that the sun rises for them only. Several of them often said to me, “Behold that luminary, which is un-
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known in thy country! During the obscurity of night, thou art not enlightened, as we are, by that bright body, which regulates our days and our festivals! His children, [the stars,] with which the blue vault of heaven is bestudded, point out to us the times of prayer. You have neither trees, camels, sheep, sand, goats, nor dogs. Are your women made like ours?" "How long didst thou remain in the belly of thy mother?" asked another. "As long," replied I, "as thou in that of thine." "Indeed," replied a second, (counting my fingers and toes,) "he is made like us;—he differs in nothing but in colour and language;—he astonishes me. Do you sow barley in your houses?" [ships.] "No," said I, "we sow our land almost in the same season as you sow yours." "How," cried out several of them, "do you inhabit then the earth? We thought you were born and lived on the sea." Such were the different questions to which I was obliged to reply, when they thought proper to honour me with their conversation.

War, among these Arabs, is nothing but a species of robbery. They never undertake it but that they may indulge in laziness, after having pillaged their enemies flocks, and ravaged the fields before they are reaped. One day, while the plains were covered with the cattle of the whole hamlet, one of their keepers came running, quite out of breath, to inform us that large parties of the Ouadelims were making their appearance on the tops of the mountains, and seemed as if they had a design to carry off our flocks. A large drum was then beaten, all ran to their arms, and immediately set out to meet the enemy. Those who were mounted on horses were soon lost in a cloud of dust. The camel, which

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takes very long steps, was no less nimble. Incited by the cries of the rider, it darted forward in the crowd, and with its teeth did as much execution as could have been done by the musquet. The Arabs never make an attack ranged in the order of battle. As many warriors as there are on each side, so many single combats are there; and he who overcomes his adversary takes from him his arms, or the animal upon which he is mounted, and retires precipitately with the fruits of his victory. Others, if they consider themselves as the stronger party, lay hold of one another, stab each other with their poignards, and sometimes tear out one another's bowels with their long nails. It often happens, that those, who possess great riches in cattle, find themselves reduced in one day to the most dreadful misery, and are stripped of their all by him who only the evening before possessed nothing. The weakest tribes being most exposed, they take care to live retired, and, above all, at a distance from the Ouadelims and the Labdessa. I saw the latter, some time before I quitted the country, begin their robberies towards Arguem, which they call Agadir, and carry their ravages even to the gates of Morocco.

In general they reap only barley, and sometimes wheat, when there has been abundance of rain. When I was in that country, as there had been a continued drought for three years, they resolved to carry the horrors of war into the more fortunate cantons, where they plundered their brethren of the fruits of their labour and industry. Thus plentiful and rich crops pass into the hands of ferocious men, who choose rather to expose their lives to the dangers of battle than to work in order to procure themselves a subsistence.

When the battle is finished, each party digs a certain number of graves, and the *Talbes*, being desired to repair to the spot which has been drenched with the blood of their countrymen, hasten thither to discharge the functions of their ministry. These consist in articulating mournful sounds over a few handfuls of sand collected into a shell, in scattering them over the unhappy victims whom they are preparing for death, in pressing their thumbs against their foreheads, as if they applied some holy oil to them; and, lastly, in covering their bodies with a scarf and a chaplet. When they have breathed their last, they stretch them out in the grave, always on their left side, and with their faces turned towards the rising sun, as if to contemplate the tomb of their prophet. They then surround the grave with large stones piled upon one another, which serve as a monument to these military plunderers. The age of the warriors is distinguished by the quantity of ground which their bodies occupy. The women in tears go and roll themselves in the sand around these mausolea; and their gestures, their grimaces, and their sighs, uttered as it were in cadence, form a spectacle truly ridiculous. A traveller never passes before these tombs without laying down his stick; and, after repeating a short prayer, he raises around the tomb pyramids of stones, which indicate the vows he has offered up for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

After the funeral ceremonies, mournful and melancholy cries are heard throughout the whole hamlet. All unite their tears to those of the afflicted relations, and the tent of the deceased is removed to another place. All his effects are exposed to the open air, and the fattest ram falls under the murdering knife, to console his friends and relations,

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who offer up this sacrifice to him. When their repast is finished, they forget all their animosity. The very day after a battle, I have seen them pay and receive reciprocal visits; and it is not uncommon for one to go and see the enemy whom he has wounded the evening before, and to discourse with him on the address which he displayed in watching a favourable opportunity to wound him. What I found most extraordinary was, that, to cure the deepest wounds, they never employed any thing but earth; from whatever place it might be taken, its effects were always the same. To allay pain, they have recourse to another expedient, which does not always succeed so well; this is to apply a red-hot iron to the part affected. These Arabs, however, are subject to few diseases. I have seen many old people of both sexes, who were oppressed by no kind of infirmity. Sore eyes and cholics are the most usual disorders among them; children, above all, are exposed to these, though in other respects strong and robust. In the morning it is difficult for them to open their eye-lids. With regard to the cholic, I think it is occasioned by the verdegris which is mixed with every thing that they eat or drink. The reason of its not occasioning more sudden disasters, is, perhaps, the large quantities of milk which they use. The kettles in which they cook their victuals are not tinned; they never wash them, on account of the scarcity of water, so that they remain covered with a crust of verdegris, which they do not scrape away even when they scour them with sand. During my stay among them, I was desirous of taking that trouble, and of rubbing until I should free them entirely from the verdegris; but they absolutely forbade me, telling me, that I should wear their kettle. It is therefore impossible that

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the food which remains in such vessels should not be prejudicial to the health.

It sometimes happens, that the fields of these barbarians are covered with plentiful crops; but, instead of waiting till the grain attains to maturity, they cut it down, and dry it over hot cinders, without reflecting, that, by pursuing this method, they deprive themselves of that abundance which is necessary for the support of their families, and of straw to feed their cattle, which for the most part are reduced to the necessity of browsing on the dry branches of trees, and that they themselves are often obliged to eat the saddles and girths from the backs of their camels. I could not see without regret the little care which these barbarians take in preparing the earth. They leave the seed between heaps of stones, and among bushes, while their parched roots absorb all the moisture of the ground, on which the waters leave a kind of slime, very fit for accelerating vegetation. The person, who is employed to till the ground, repairs to those spots which the rain has principally moistened, and scatters the seed here and there indifferently; after which, he turns up the earth with a plough, drawn by one camel, which consequently makes a furrow of very little depth. If the moisture of the clouds happens to second this labour, each retires with his portion to the interior part of their rocks.

In passing through more fertile cantons, I have often found under my feet sheaves of corn, the full ears of which might have invited the most opulent Arab to collect them; others, heaped one upon another, remained exposed to the injuries of the weather, because the proprietor found himself provided with enough to last him until the season when the vapours, attracted by the mountains, should fall
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down in torrents, and inundate the valleys. "Is it possible," said I to myself, "that there are men, who set so little value on the favours of Providence! How happy should I think myself to have such provision at my disposal!"—I took some handfuls of this barley, and, having separated it from the surrounding husks, ate it with inexpressible pleasure. I imagined myself conveyed back to that period, when manna dropped from the heavens to relieve the wants of the Israelites in the wilderness.

I never perceived any thing like genius in those Arabs among whom I resided; they are absolutely destitute of industry, and shew no desire for instruction. They had among them only two tradesmen, whom they beheld with a kind of veneration, owing, no doubt, to the astonishment they were under at seeing them imitate the works of foreign nations; for, they are incapable of inventing any thing. A carpenter and a blacksmith engrossed all the knowledge of the country. The art of the former consisted only in making wooden basons, mortars, and ploughs; but he was far from giving, to that instrument of agriculture, such a form as would have rendered it easy to be managed by the labourer. The other, by the strength of his arms, could hammer out a piece of iron, with the good or bad qualities of which he was not in the least acquainted. Often after putting it several times into the fire, and depriving it of its properties, he has been obliged to throw it aside, without being able to convert it to any useful purpose; and, if he at length happened to succeed, it was only by imitating, in a rude manner, the proposed object. The same workman manufactured, with the like confidence, the most precious metals. My master one day brought him the gold chain which I had given him, and ordered him
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to convert it into rings for his daughter. The ignorant mechanic, after examining it with the greatest care, pretended that it was not gold, comparing it with one of pinchbeck, which he had received from some of our sailors, and which he declared to be pure gold. To support his assertion, he made the Arab observe that mine was of different colours, whereas the other was rougher, and of a deeper yellow. In short, after a long dissertation, and various observations, equally ridiculous as false, he determined to hollow out a large piece of half-burnt wood, in which he enclosed it, and, by the force of blowing, he at length melted it, and made rings of it as clumsy as those which surround a snuff-box. His talents were, however, universally admired, and, as a reward for his labour, he received a basin of butter-milk.

How much pains did I take to teach them to grind their barley with more care, and to free it from the chaff! How many attempts did I make, also, to instruct them how to put loads on the backs of their camels, in such a manner that they might remain properly balanced, and that they might never hurt their animals, or suffer their instruments to be continually exposed to the danger of being broken by a fall! I wished likewise to prevail upon them to till the earth better, and to reap their crop with more care and attention. In short, I was desirous of civilising them, but my endeavours were altogether fruitless. They were more obstinate than their camels, and that is saying not a little; for, I can hardly express how much I suffered in this respect from these animals during the thirteen months I was employed in keeping them. Whatever pains may be taken to convince these Arabs of their want of capacity in every thing they undertake, it is not possible to cure them of their prejudices, and to correct

rect their bad habits. I have seen the breech-pin of a fusée in the hands of the blacksmith already mentioned, upon which he had laboured for fifteen days; and, when he had finished his work, I told him that it was so badly adjusted, that the person, for whom the fusée was intended, could not use it without being exposed to great danger. All those who were present endeavoured to prevail upon me to make a trial of it, but I begged to be excused. The workman, however, through an excess of vanity, fired the piece himself, and had his cheek and part of his hand carried away by it. I can safely declare, after what I have seen, that the ignorance of this armourer occasions as many wounds to these Arabs as they receive in war. They often questioned us to know whether there was not a gun-smith amongst us. After the observations which they had heard me make, they suspected me to be one. Their arms are in the most wretched condition; they consist principally of fuses made for exportation, which the Arabs of the tribe of Targea exchange with them for camels. Some hordes procure them from vessels that have been shipwrecked on their coasts; and some procure them from Morocco. Those which they get in the latter manner are much stronger, but so difficult to manage, that they prefer those of Europe, and especially those which have two barrels. There is not a single Arab, who would not give a Christian slave for one of these instruments of destruction. When they are under the necessity of having them repaired, they employ the iron which they tear from vessels that are lost. I was at first astonished to see with what eagerness they staved the brandy casks to get off the hoops, as I had no suspicion that they destined this iron, which is very bad, for such a purpose. If iron and mus-

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quets are such valuable objects to these Arabs, we may readily conclude, that flints, balls, powder, and shot, are no less so. They have sense enough to distinguish good powder from bad. Large quantities of it are manufactured in the small city of Gouadnum; but it is so coarse and weak, that it produces a very slow effect, and often none at all; it stains the barrel and dirties the lock, which, for want of oil, they are obliged to rub with butter.

Except crimes, which they endeavour to commit during the night, these people never make a mystery of their actions. When one of them is desirous of undertaking a long journey, he informs the whole hamlet, who assemble to give their best advice to the traveller. Every one makes his speech, even children of fourteen, who speak with as much confidence as any old man who is discoursing on the most important business. These conferences, which are intended for no other purpose than to approve or condemn their countryman's project, are sometimes lengthened out to a whole month. The same thing happens every time that they are about to change the place of their encampment, or to conduct their camels to the borders of the sea. This last question is always the longest under deliberation, on account of the distance, and the hardships they suffer from the want of milk during the absence of these animals. It is true, that, in such cases, those who do not send their camels to the coasts supply those, who are in want, with milk, according to their own expression, *to be paid back in the like coin*. Their joy is never manifested so much as on the return of their cattle. When they come back, they are all loaded with goat's skins full of water, which contracts in them a most disagreeable smell; but it is so scarce that they drink it with the greatest avidity.

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It is generally believed in Europe, that a dog will become mad if he does not get water. In the deserts of Arabia they never drink at all, and feed upon nothing but excrements. Camels remain sometimes four whole months without tasting a drop of water, and goats and sheep drink still less. In short, if the Arabs had no horses, they would perhaps never go in search of water; they would wait till it should drop from the heavens. Those rains, which generally fall in the month of October diffuse universal joy, and great rejoicings are made at that epoch. Those, who have never known the want of water, can form no idea of the transports which they experience upon these occasions.

A husband cannot put away his wife without having first obtained the permission of the elders of the hamlet, which is never refused. The women here are always treated with the most sovereign contempt. They never assume the name of their husbands, but preserve that which they received at their birth. Children even do not take the name of their father. In almost all the hamlets, which I had an opportunity of visiting, there were only four or five different names; they distinguish themselves by that of their tribe, or by any surname whatever. When an Arab sets out on a long journey, his spouse, after bidding him farewell, follows him about twenty paces from her habitation, throws after him the stone which is employed to drive the pegs of the tent into the earth, and, when it stops, buries it in the sand till his return. It is thus that she shews her good wishes towards him, and the vows she offers up for his happy return.

Though these women are very indecent in their discourse and gestures, they are extremely faithful to their husbands. I could never reconcile the ten-

derness which they shew to their children with that barbarity which they display in correcting them, especially their daughters, who are very undutiful to their parents. It is upon them, however, that they lavish their opulence; they ornament them with ear-rings, and put rings of gold or silver upon their arms and legs. They add so much alloy to their silver, that it is scarcely any thing else but whitened copper. Those of the lower class make use only of the latter.

Nothing can equal the joy of the Arabs on the birth of a son. It may readily be guessed, that the mother has neither the assistance of a midwife nor of a surgeon. For the most part she is alone at the time of her delivery, stretched out upon the sand, where she deposits her burden, and, having taken a drop of milk to strengthen her, remains lying on the ground in a wretched tent, incapable of sheltering her from the inclemency of the weather.

Every woman who brings forth a son, in order to manifest her joy, blackens her face for the space of forty days. At the birth of a daughter, she blackens only the half of her visage, and for no more than twenty days. Could these poor children observe the hideous appearance which their mothers exhibit, they would be frightened from approaching their breasts. I never saw so disgusting figures.

I could not help shuddering when I saw the severity with which these women treat their children when yet at the breast. They lay them asleep by giving them severe blows upon the back; and, to prevent them from crying, they pinch them in a most unmerciful manner, and twist their skin with their fingers. I have seen some of these inhuman monsters set out, the very day upon which they were delivered, in order to encamp at the distance of
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fifteen or twenty leagues. They are placed without any distinction in a kind of cradle, which is fixed upon the top of a camel's load, and, as they are very conspicuous in this situation, they endeavour to dress themselves in the best manner they can, and to eclipse each others finery. For this purpose, they ornament the camel's body with several bandages of scarlet cloth, and with a few white rags. The four sticks, which form the frame of the cradle, are adorned with leaves of copper or of silver gilt.

It is generally the women who pull up the poles of the tent, when their husbands have resolved to change the place of their encampment; they also load the camels under the inspection of their masters. When the husband mounts on horseback, it is the wife who presents him with his spurs, and, though she fall and bruise herself, it is of little importance, provided on his arrival he finds her ready to serve him with a basin of butter-milk.

I have been often shocked to see one of these Arabs, who not being rich enough to purchase a horse, had mounted upon the bales on the back of his camel, leave to dismayed females the care of arranging the load, which had tumbled down, whilst he with the utmost indifference was reposing himself behind a bush. Nothing can be more arrogant than an Arab to his wife, nothing more humble than one of his wives in his presence. They are even excluded from the company of their husbands at their meals. As soon as they have served them, they retire until their tyrants are pleased to call them to give them what they have left. An Arab cannot, without violating the rules of decency, enter the tent of any of his neighbours on any account whatever. When he has occasion to speak with him, he calls him out, and the wife, when she hears the sound of his voice, immediately

immediately puts on a veil, and she does this even when she passes one. A husband would be deficient in politeness, did he, on entering his tent, lay himself down upon the mat used by his wife; he cannot enjoy that privilege until she has retired to rest. In short, they are abundantly complaisant towards their wives while they are big with child. There are few families in which there are not five or six children; and, as a plurality of wives is permitted, it may readily be supposed how much these people must multiply. There exists, however, no jealousy between these females; they live all under the same tent, and see upon whom their husbands are fondest of bestowing their favours.

The tent, set apart for the reception of a new married couple, is distinguished with a small white flag. The bridegroom has his forehead ornamented with a band of the same colour; and, whether he be married for the first or the fifth time, he is always decorated with the symbol of virginity, whatever his age may be. On the wedding-day, the husband orders a camel to be killed to regale the company; and both the married and unmarried women, without any distinction, assemble around the drummer. The latter, seated on the ground, beats upon his instrument with one hand; and, with the other, forming a kind of speaking-trumpet, accompanies the sound of his drum with dreadful howlings, and with the clanking of a chain, which he moves with his arm. One person only dances to this agreeable music. She agitates her body in a most singular manner, and, with her arms floating before her, forms a number of gestures, each more indecent than another, while all the spectators beat time with their hands. With their necks stretched out, and their mouths turned first on one side and then to another, they

they make a thousand grimaces, which are answered by the female who dances with astonishing precision. She finishes this exercise by resting herself gently against the musician, the sound of the instrument dies away, the eyes of the actress become half shut, she presses her bosom, and every thing announces the most violent passion. But it is impossible to paint that moment, or the air of indifference with which the woman, who has played this part, rejoins her companions. The young men form a circle, one stands in the middle upon one leg, with the other he endeavours to defend himself from the blows which are aimed at him from all quarters, and the first whom he strikes must assume his place. This game of address is the only one with which they are acquainted.

The morning after the wedding, the new married woman is separated from her husband; and her female friends, who have provided water, wash her body from the middle to the feet. They also comb her hair, form it into tresses, dye her nails red, and put upon her a new dress. If she be not rich enough to buy one, she receives one in loan till the festival be finished.

I always considered as a fable what was told me respecting the breasts of the Mooreesses, but I am now convinced of my error. I have seen, not to mention other instances, one of these women, when in a passion, strike one of her children so hard with one of her breasts, that she knocked the child down to the ground.

Scarcely is a male child able to walk when its mother treats it with the same respect as she treats her husband; that is to say, she prepares food for it, and never eats till her son is served. The *Talbe*, who teaches children to read and write, never instructs

instructs them but with a loud voice, and the children study in the same manner, although each has often a different lesson to learn, which occasions a horrible noise. The exercises which they give them are written upon slips of board well polished. When the lesson is got, it is rubbed out, and its place is supplied by another, which, instead of a quill, is written with a slip of wood. Their ciphers have a great resemblance to ours.

After what I have said concerning these barbarians, the reader may easily conceive how anxious I must have been to be restored to my country. We complain when obliged to renounce old habits, we shed tears when we separate from our friends, we are uneasy when we forget a handkerchief, or when we are prevented from using a razor for two days, yet, for fourteen months, did I suffer all the miseries of slavery; naked, tormented by vermin, torn in every part of my body, and having no other bed but the wet or burning sand. O! Divine Providence, it is thou who hast supported me in my trials; to thee have I made a sacrifice of my sufferings, to thee do I look up for my reward!

